

## Tomorrow

The show man  
Profile of Michael  
Grade, the outsider  
brought in to  
revitalize BBC 1

The music man  
Neville Martinson  
celebrates 25 years  
of the Academy of  
St Martin-in-the-Fields

It's a funny life  
Enoch Powell reviews  
a biography of Jacques  
Tait, creator of  
Monsieur Hulot

Naked act  
Pub strippers find  
the back door  
into Equity

Northern touch  
Report of the  
Wallabies' match  
against the  
North of England

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared by two winners yesterday. Miss Maria Vaz-Pinto of London and Mr Christopher White of Forest Row, Sussex each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, back page.

## Ex-chairman of BBC dies at 64



Lord Howard of Henderskelfe, who as George Howard, was chairman of the BBC from 1980 to 1983, died yesterday, aged 64. He had been ill for some time. Mr Stuart Young, his successor at the BBC yesterday paid tribute to him, saying that he was interested in every detail of broadcasting.

Obituary, page 14

## Ford talks fail

Talks aimed at settling the 13-day strike by 270 Ford women machinists broke down last night. The strike has led to the loss of 14,300 vehicles at a total showroom value of £85m.



## Trial in public

Poland is to try in public the four Interior Ministry officers accused in connection with the killing of Father Jerzy Popieluszko. Western correspondents will be allowed to attend.

## Right-wing win

Sir William Clark, chairman of the Tory finance committee throughout Mrs Thatcher's Prime Ministership, was re-elected last night.

## Secrets Act

Lord Scarman called last night in the annual Granada lecture for the Official Secrets Act to be repealed and replaced by a statute to protect what ought to be secret while ensuring a right of public access to other information.

Leader page, 13  
Letters: On student grants, from Prof R M S. Smith, and Dr I J. Denny; effect of cuts, from Sir Geoffrey Jackson, and others.  
Leading articles: US budget; Genscher's Polish problem; regional aid policy.  
Features, pages 10-12.  
Call to link arms with France, the market forces behind famine; Bolton's musical legacy; Power politics from the pulp; Divorce in Britain, part two.  
Obituary, page 14.  
Lord Howard of Henderskelfe, Mr Percy Norris.  
Classified, pages 22 to 26.  
La crème de la crème; property

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# US officials propose 35% top tax rate

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration's long-awaited plan to overhaul and simplify the US tax system was unveiled yesterday and immediately ran into strong opposition from business groups which criticized it as unfair and detrimental to future growth.

Treasury officials have been working for more than a year on the proposal which calls for cuts in America's top income tax rate to 35 per cent, while eliminating a maze of deductions and special interest tax allowances accumulated over decades.

The tax package is not intended to increase total revenue, because the President is committed by a pre-election

pledge not to raise taxes. The President's "core group" of nine top budget advisers is still struggling over a massive programme of social spending cuts to reduce the \$210 billion Federal deficit.

A cuts programme is to be presented to the President today but administration officials have been unable to agree during weeks of closed-door talks.

Before he left Washington last week for the Thanksgiving Day holiday, Mr Reagan stepped into the fray and delivered a new set of orders: domestic spending was to be cut even more sharply but tax increases and cuts in social security and defence spending were "off limits".

President Reagan has made tax reforms a centrepiece of his campaign to "get government off the backs of the people" but the plan produced by the Treasury was criticized by White House officials even before it was formally unveiled.

## Frontier to reopen in Gibraltar

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The 15-year siege of Gibraltar is to end early next year. Before February 15 the frontier is to be opened in return for an agreement reached yesterday in Brussels that Britain was prepared, for the first time, to discuss sovereignty of the colony, which was captured 280 years ago.

The agreement was described by Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, as "the biggest diplomatic success for Spain over the Rock since 1713". That was when Gibraltar legally became British under the treaty of Utrecht.

But Señor Morán said he did not want to sound too triumphant, and Sir Geoffrey Jackson, the Foreign Secretary, insisted in the final agreement that "the British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar".

Sir Geoffrey said negotiations between Britain and Spain would cover a range of subjects, from economic and tourist to aviation and military matters.

Spain had asserted its claim to sovereignty, but meant to pursue it by peaceful means. It

had guaranteed to respect the wishes and interests of the population.

Under the agreement neither side has undertaken to do anything which would not have been required from the moment Spain joined the EEC. As a member, Spain could not have kept the existing border controls, while Britain would have had to allow Spaniards the right of free movement.

But as a sign of goodwill, the agreement will allow these rights to citizens of both Spain and Gibraltar from the day the border is opened. Controls on the type of worker allowed to find a job in Gibraltar, or on who could buy property in the colony would continue for a seven-year period after Spain joined the Community - the target date is still January 1, 1986 - but "each side will be favourably disposed to each other's citizens when granting work permits".

Sir Geoffrey underlined the importance of ending the quarrel. But Señor Morán said: "The end of the Gibraltar problem means the integration of Gibraltar into Spain and filling in Spanish sovereignty, with maximum respect for the rights of Gibraltarians".

One of the first fruits of the new-found cooperation between Britain and Spain is likely to be a treaty of extradition. The agreement also removes a further block in the negotiations for Spanish membership of the EEC.

One area where Sir Geoffrey insisted there was no possible link, precedent or connection was the Falklands. Historically, legally and geographically the case involving the islands was quite different, he said.

Full text of agreement, Page 6



Mr Maurice de Souza, the dead man's driver, gives police his version of events at the site of the assassination in Bombay yesterday

## Scargill absent from strike meeting with TUC chiefs

By David Felton  
Labour Correspondent

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, failed to appear at a critical meeting in London last night between the TUC and miners' leaders.

Mr Scargill was said to be too busy at the union's Sheffield headquarters and regarded the meeting with the seven-man TUC team monitoring the nine-month dispute as routine.

His absence was seen as a snub to the senior union leaders who were supposed to be laying the grounds for opening negotiations between the coal board and union.

Some right-wing union leaders have argued for a reconsideration of TUC support, or at the very least pressure to be brought on the NUM to modify its bargaining position on closures so that talks could be reopened.

Another view presented at the meeting, attended by Mr

Mr John Paul Getty II, aged 51, gave £100,000 yesterday to the Christmas appeal launched on Monday for families of striking miners, enough to fill stockings for 50,000 children or buy a dinner for almost 67,000. Mr Getty, who lives in Chelsea, London, paid a cheque through his accountants.

Michael McGahey and Mr Peter Heatfield respectively NUM vice president and general secretary, was that there should be an approach by the TUC to Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to seek ways of breaking the impasse.

However, three miners' leaders were willing to compromise on opposition to pit closures or to agree to any negotiation with a union spokesman said last night that Mr Scargill had not attended the Congress House meeting because of a tight

schedule and because he had returned late from a rally of striking miners in Nottinghamshire.

The TUC meeting was convened after colliery managers agreed a 5.2 per cent pay increase for 15,000 members over the next 12 months, the increase that was offered the NUM last November.

The return to work showed further signs of slowing down, with 350 going back yesterday, compared with 975 last Tuesday. The drift back to work is running at "below half" last week's record.

The 5.2 per cent pay deal agreed with the British Association of Colliery Management will set the pace for settlements in the mining industry and other public sector areas. Leaders of colliery deputies will be made the same offer tomorrow.

MacGregor visit, page 2  
Parliament, page 4

## Academics question NCB accounting

## Cortonwood colliery 'profitable'

By Ian Griffiths

Cortonwood Colliery, the pit whose suggested closure precipitated the miners' strike, could be classified as profitable, according to a study by five leading accountancy academics.

Their research indicates that in 1981-82, the colliery would have produced a profit at the rate of £5.50 a ton of coal for the National Coal Board rather than the £6.20-a-ton loss suggested by the 1983 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the board.

The findings were due to be published in an article in the magazine *Accountancy* this week but it was withdrawn after the NCB put pressure on the editor of the research team, Professor David Cooper of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

The academics claim that the

After consultations with the NCB yesterday, Professor Cooper has now decided that the article should be published and it will appear unaltered in the magazine in January.

The article is critical of the NCB's internal accounting procedures, in particular the "F23" statement which is used by the board to monitor pit performance.

According to the academics, the F23 "does not provide a sensible basis for pit closure decisions or public debate on them". The article particularly questions the coal board's use of allocating fixed costs, in current whether or not a pit is closed, and its use of applying notional penalties to pits which exceed their budgeted output allocation.

The academics claim that the

NCB's accounting procedures tend to favour high performance pits which attract high investment and penalize the so-called low-performing collieries.

The NCB's attempts to prevent the article's publication angered *Accountancy*, the official journal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Last night the NCB issued a statement saying that there were inaccuracies and a misunderstanding of the board's accounting procedures in the article. It also said that the meeting between Mr Michael Butler, director-general (finance), and the authors to discuss amendments to the article was still scheduled to go ahead in December.

## India steps up security after envoy's murder

From Michael Hamlyn in Delhi and Richard Streeton in Bombay

India yesterday announced increased security precautions for British offices throughout the country after the assassination of a senior British diplomat in Bombay.

Police sealed the city by rail, road, air and sea to search for two "white men" reported to have been seen firing shots at the envoy.

The first cricket Test, which had been in question after the shooting, was confirmed last night and will begin in Bombay today, the England manager said.

The diplomat who died was Mr Percy Norris, aged 56, the Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay, commercial capital of the country. He had been in his post since last month, and previously served in the Gulf state of Dubai.

He was being driven by Mr Maurice de Souza, an Indian employee of the Commission for 20 years, in his Rover, emblazoned with diplomatic number plates and flying the Union Jack.

The car travelled down Marine Drive and then up from the bay along Madame Cama Road towards the Deputy High Commission offices. A gardener tending flowers at a statue nearby described how the car slowed to turn left into Patel Marg when two men stepped towards it.

Mr Roy Carter, First Secretary at the commission, said three shots were fired, shattering the front and rear near side windows. One bullet whistled past Mr de Souza's face. The others struck Mr Norris, one in the temple and one in the heart. A policeman later recovered two spent 9mm cartridge cases from the road.

Until late last night, the gardener was being questioned by police. The attackers were apparently described as white, with one having long hippy-length hair. The other was said to have a sawtooth complexion.

Mr de Souza speeded up and took Mr Norris to the Brach Candy hospital four miles away. He was rushed to the intensive care ward but died soon after. His wife, Angela, an 83-year-old stockbroker holidaying in India, were at his bedside. Mr

degree of apprehension for one or two players," Mr Tony Brown, the manager, said, "but if there is a safe place in the world today, the middle of the Wankhede stadium must be as safe a place as anywhere."

Increased security was clamped on British offices and institutions yesterday. An extra patrol of armed police moved outside the Delhi High Commission and more guards were posted at the Deputy High Commissions in Calcutta and Madras, as well as Bombay.

Three officers and 10 constables were patrolling the Taj Mahal hotel in Bombay, where the England team is staying.

The Indian Government yesterday said it was "deeply distressed at this tragic incident. We express our deep sympathy to the British Government and the bereaved family."

● BRUSSELS: Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said here that he had been deeply shocked to hear of the death (Ian Murray writes).

"It is an appalling crime and it illustrates very clearly the nature of the dangers people in the diplomatic service face, and lots of other people in public life, from terrorists around the world."

● A group calling itself The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims claimed responsibility for the killing in telephone messages to news agencies in London and Paris.

Parliament, page 4  
Poll facts fall, page 6  
Obituary, page 14

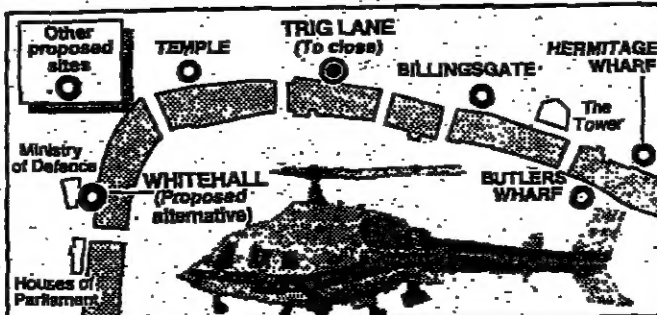
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don't main heliport with 12,000 flights a year.

Stapport is awaiting permission as a short take-off and landing airport from which the promoters are seeking to have helicopters banned to allow local environmental objections.

Efforts were being made to reduce helicopter nuisance with a new code of conduct for pilots.

Permission for the Whitehall heliport would rest with Westminster City Council. Mr Alan Bradley, chairman of Westminster's planning committee, said: "It is difficult to believe we would be happy about it. We are already getting a lot of complaints about helicopter noise."

## Whitehall site proposed for London heliport

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

A heliport only 400 yards from Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament is being proposed by the helicopter industry as a replacement for central London's existing public heliport at Trig Lane near Cannon Street, due to close by 1986.

It would be on the north bank of the Thames outside the Ministry of Defence between Horse Guards Avenue and Richmond Terrace, and would handle several thousand civil and military movements a year.

Helicopter interests say a replacement for Trig Lane, whose planning permission expires within 18 months, is

urgently needed to cope with a predicted growth in London helicopter movements from 20,000 to 30,000 a year by 1990. But a heliport in so environmentally sensitive an area would meet with violent opposition, though members of the Government and military chiefs would doubtless welcome it.

The site is one of five proposed by the British Helicopter Advisory Board, representing manufacturers and operators, as the central of three London heliports for the 1990's. The other four are near the Savoy Hotel at Temple, at the Billingsgate fish market

site near London Bridge, and at Battersea Wharf and Hermitage Wharf near London Bridge.

The Whitehall site would serve primarily for local flights in southern England, and for

connections to longer flights from two larger heliports, at Battersea in the west and the proposed Stapport in London's docklands to the east.

Battersea is "already Lon-



# Cash shortage is blamed for falling off in science research

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Britain's scientific research is falling dramatically behind that of other advanced countries because of inadequate funding, Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee, told MPs yesterday.

He gave a warning to the Commons Select Committee on Education and Science that cash shortages now meant "we cannot really go on trying to retain a presence in every field of science".

Sir Peter said: "The proportion of good research which this country does is governed by the proportion of total expenditure on research which is spent in this country. Most other advanced countries are actively increasing in real terms, the amount of money they are spending on scientific research, some of them by quite substantial percentages."

Even if Britain's funding of research managed to stay the same in real terms "other

countries are racing ahead of us".

Since 1979 the money spent on scientific research in Britain's universities has declined in real terms every year. In 1985-6 spending would, for the first time, keep pace with inflation, but only after a special £26m top-up by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education.

Sir Peter criticised the Treasury's "wildly optimistic" estimate of 3 per cent inflation for the next year, which determined the Government's increased funding to the UGC. "Nobody I have seen seriously considers inflation will be below 5 per cent. So the extra money being made available more or less balances the results of the way the Treasury does its arithmetic."

"We are, in effect, in the Red Queen's world in this country. You have to run very fast to stay in the same place."

## Teachers oppose VAT on books

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Six organizations representing more than 500,000 teachers yesterday signed a joint resolution to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, opposing the threatened VAT on books.

They complained that tax on books would lead to more bureaucracy, more expensive books and fewer children reading. Mr Warwick Hele, High Master of St Pauls School for Boys in London, representing the Secondary Heads Association, said it would have the disastrous effect of cutting children off from literary experience.

"This means they will have real difficulty with fluency and the use of their own language," he said. "Such a decline in the ability of children to communicate naturally and clearly will be

very damaging to the future of the nation."

The resolution - signed by the National Union of Teachers, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, the Secondary Heads Association and the National Association of Head Teachers - was delivered to Sir Keith yesterday. The organizations are also asking for an urgent meeting with Sir Keith.

Mr Alan Evans, head of the NUT's education department said: "This is a tax on knowledge and on learning. We should remember the Victorian entrepreneurs. They would certainly not have taxed knowledge."

## Scheme for the young looks to its image

By Richard Dowden

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is trying to change its image.

Mr David Davis, chairman of Edelmans public relations company, who works for the scheme in a voluntary capacity, has told the scheme's organizers that it appears to be too middle class and elitist.

Some 200 people at seminars in a London hotel will spend today working out ways of bringing it to a wider public.

Commander David Cobb, the deputy director, said the scheme was not being questioned, simply its image, and how to find more young people and provide them with the facilities for competing in it.

Since it was launched in 1956 more than two million young people, aged between 14 and 23, have taken part from 43 countries, aiming to win an award and played a role in the world.

The Duke of Edinburgh said at a press conference yesterday that more resources and effort were now going into inner cities than rural areas.

Earlier the Duke told the organizing council that the change in the demographic pattern due to the lower birthrate now affected all schools and youth organizations, and that many people were anxious and uncertain.

"At the same time economic forces are making things particularly difficult for young people. Against this background I believe that we need to make a very special effort to make it possible for more young people to take advantage of the opportunities for individual development offered by the Award Scheme."

## Escape break at police college

Christopher Drouet, aged 35, serving a 33-month sentence for theft at Colbying prison, Surrey, working party doing gardening at the Bramshill Police College, in Hampshire.

A spokesman for the Prison Service said that Drouet had been sentenced at the South-Western Crown Court but was not classed as a dangerous prisoner. The college said that security was very strict.



Liberal approach: Mr Tim Slack (left) and his wife, Kate, meeting Mr Peter Oakley, a greengrocer, yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos)

## Liberals to campaign for compassion

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Liberal by-election machine, which has helped Liberal and Social Democrat candidates to notable victories and frightened the defending party in several safe-looking seats, set up shop yesterday in Enfield Southgate and claimed it would win.

Against it is the shortness of the campaign, with polling day two weeks away tomorrow and that Southgate has always returned Conservatives. But in these volatile days there is nothing insuperable about the Conservative majority of 15,819, or 34.7 per cent. The Conservatives were wise to hold the by-election at the earliest reasonable time after the death of Sir Anthony Berry, in the Brighton bombing.

They were gently chided, however, by both their principal

opponents in their opening press conferences yesterday. Mr Peter Hamid, Labour candidate, thought there had been undue haste.

With an eloquence which might have had Mrs Margaret Thatcher cheering him, Mr Hamid trusted that they would fight a dignified campaign, "dignified in so campaigning as to prove to terrorists that they cannot intimidate us. We will be engaged in the democratic process, and they will not bomb the democratic process out of existence."

But they would put, Mr Hamid said, the issues of cuts, student grants and hospital closures, which affected electors' daily lives. National politics hit Southgate people hard, he said. The council had large sums of money from council house sales which it intended to use to rehabilitate its housing.

but the Government had put constraints on its use.

Local people had wanted to use the proceeds of sale of a local hospital to improve other hospital facilities, but had been told they could use less than half.

Mr Hamid starts in third place, so the supporters of the Liberal, Mr Tim Slack, were naturally making the claim yesterday, which has served them well in the past, that he was the only real challenger to the Conservative, Mr Michael Portillo.

Mr Slack, who was adopted late on Monday, was introduced proudly by his agent yesterday as "one of the best on the party's candidates' list". He is no more local than Mr Portillo, Mr Hamid has the edge there, but he has experience and did outstandingly well when he last fought for a parliamentary seat.

in the safe Tory pastures of Petersfield in 1974.

He is a former headmaster of Bedales School, and before that of a school in Burma sponsored by the British Council.

Mr Slack, who is 56, said that he would put the economy and unemployment first in his campaign for "compassion linked with efficiency".

He wanted to attack "the myth of housewife economics" which held that the national budget should be run like a family budget; and to promote the consistent Alliance policy of investing in the infrastructure to bring immediate relief of unemployment in the construction industry.

General election results: Sir Anthony Berry (C) 26,431; David Morgan (L) 10,652; Mary Honeyball (Lab) 8,132; M. Braithwaite (BNP) 318. C majority, 15,799.

## The miners' strike

## MacGregor in visit All North-west pits are working

From Peter Davenport, Pontefract

The chairman of the National Coal Board, Mr Ian MacGregor, made an unexpected visit yesterday to the hospital bedside of Mr Michael Fletcher, the injured working miner.

As he spoke to Mr Fletcher at Pontefract General Hospital, a few hundred yards away at the town's magistrates' court the president of the NUM branch at the local pit was appearing on charges related to the attack.

Mr Roy Wright, aged 53, the Fryston colliery union branch president and NUM welfare officer for the North Yorkshire area, was one of seven miners who appeared before magistrates in connection with the attack on Mr Fletcher in his home at Kirkdale, Airedale, near Castleford, on Friday.

He was assaulted as he tried to go to work for the fifth day after abandoning the strike. He suffered broken bones, severe bruising and cuts.

Mr Wright, branch president for 18 years at Mr Fletcher's colliery, was remanded in custody for a week accused of unlawfully causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Fletcher on the basis of incitement, aiding and abetting.

Mr Wright's solicitor, Mr Alan Craig, had sought bail. Four other miners from the

Castleford area who faced charges in connection with the attack were remanded in custody, and two others were given bail. On Tuesday 11 other miners appeared in connection with the attack, and all 18 will appear again on December 3.

As the court was sitting, Mr MacGregor and Mr Fletcher were talking in hospital. The NCB chairman, whose visit was described as a "personal decision", brought a present of two autographed books on mining.

Later Mr Fletcher said: "It was a wonderful surprise and Mr MacGregor gave me lots of reassurance, which I needed. He told me there would definitely be a job for me with the coal board whenever I was ready to return to work."

"He said that if I needed to move away from the area I could do so. But I don't think I will need to do that. He wished me a speedy recovery, and asked about the attack."

"He gave me two signed books on mining, which many people can have. I will keep them and pass them on to my family."

Mr MacGregor's visit further strengthened Mr Fletcher's resolve to return to work at Fryston colliery.

The last pit in the National Coal Board's western area to stand idle because of the coal strike resumed production yesterday.

As 200 tons of coal from the Higher Florida seam of Sutton Manor colliery near St Helens in Lancashire were brought to the surface the board announced a big investment programme for the pit.

During the next three years it will spend £17.4m, the largest investment ever in a single Lancashire pit.

A GLC report refers to the Metropolitan Police as acquiring "a universally bad reputation" in the miners' dispute. It reports comments such as "they're just a load of animals in uniform."

The report is by Mr Martin Ennals, head of the police committee support unit and forms an appendix to a police committee report presented to the full council meeting last night.

It expressed grave concern "at the continuing use of paramilitary units and the increased tactics of confrontation being used by the police."

Mr Paul Rossi, Alliance spokesman on the police committee, called it a "one-sided piece of police-bashing".

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said in Corby, Northamptonshire, yesterday that there was no point in resuming negotiations with Mr Arthur Scargill.

"There is no point in having negotiations with someone whose main aim is that he is not going to move an inch. If there was a secret ballot then we would have all the miners back at work next week," he said.

Church leaders who speak out on the miners' dispute have been defended by the general secretary of the British Council of Churches.

The Rev Dr Philip Morgan, moderator of the United Reformed Church, told the council assembly in London yesterday: "It is, I think, a matter of great encouragement that in such a frightening situation positions should have been taken, and voices raised within the churches."

Intimidation of working miners in their homes and through their families was probably the most despicable form of attack possible, Mr Charles McLaglan, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, said on BBC radio yesterday.

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Leading article, page 13

## Thatcher rejects 'worthless' missile offer

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

President Chernenko's promise to Mr Neil Kinnock that Russia would not make Britain a target if a Labour government stripped the country of its nuclear defences was rejected as worthless by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, yesterday.

During Commons questions she agreed with Mr William Walker, the Conservative MP for Tayside North, who said it was naive to imagine that because someone said that missiles were not directed on you they could not be redirected at short notice.

Mr Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, was jeered by Conservative MPs when he asked whether Mrs Thatcher had last visited Moscow and negotiated a nuclear arms reduction.

Earlier Mrs Thatcher said that the Soviet Union had been brought back to the negotiating table in the disarmament talks by Nato's firmness in implementing its dual track decision.

When the previous Labour leader, Mr Michael Foot, visited Moscow in 1981 he claimed his meeting with President Brezhnev had brought "a major breakthrough", with the Russians spelling out in detail their readiness to withdraw missiles from western Russia in return for the non-deployment of new Nato missiles in Europe.

Subsequently, commentators suggested there had been no real breakthrough.

Mr Kinnock and Mr Denis Healey left Moscow last night after a week of talks "firmly convinced" by the Soviet promises on missiles, despite the difficulty of verifying Soviet undertakings (Richard Owen writes).

The account in *Pravda* yesterday of the meeting on Monday with President Chernenko said the Soviet leader had agreed to "reduce and physically destroy" Soviet medium-range missiles stationed in European Russia equivalent to the number of nuclear missiles, British and American, eliminated by a Labour government.

If Britain disarmed completely, in accordance with Labour's defence policy, "Soviet nuclear weapons will not be trained on Britain at all," Mr Chernenko declared.

He added, however, that Soviet missiles stationed in East Germany and Czechoslovakia would remain in place, as they were a response to American deployments in Western Europe.

At a final press conference yesterday Mr Kinnock said cruise missiles withdrawn from Britain could be redeployed elsewhere, so that it was natural for the Russians to keep missiles in Eastern Europe.

The survey, *Major's mortgage*, shows that the average house in London and the south-east this year is worth £22,000 more than last year, according to published yesterday.

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## Tory right win two vital backbench posts

By Our Political Reporter

The Conservative right triumphed at Westminster last night by holding off strong challenges from the left for two of the party's most important backbench posts.

Sir William Clark (Croydon South) was re-elected chairman of the powerful finance committee, a position he had held since 1979, by defeating Mr Nigel Forman, (Carlisle North and Wellington), in one of the most

strongly-contested elections.

Mr Michael Grylls, (Surrey North-west) retained the chairmanship of the trade and industry committee.

With the victory last week of Mr Ralph Howell over Mr Jim Lester in the contest for the employment committee chairmanship, the right has kept control of the three main backbench economic committees.

## Masonic hospital 'at risk'

By Nicholas Timmins, Local Government Correspondent

The Royal Masonic Hospital and a National Health Service nursing school are at risk after rejection by the hospital's governors of a £20.2m rescue bid by American Medical International.

Mr Tony Prescott, chief executive of the 252-bed hospital, said it and the school were in danger of closing in three months unless donation from Freemasons flowed in very quickly. The hospital runs a school for 3000 nurses with the Roehampton health authority. The cost is shared.

The Royal Masonic, the largest independent acute hospital in Britain, chiefly treats patients from the 600,000-strong Freemasons movement. Since 1973 it has taken non-Masons as paying patients. But for 10 of the past 14 years it has made a loss, which in the year to June was £387,000. This year's deficit is £140,000.

Of the hospital's £7.1m turnover, £4m comes from paying patients and payments by Masons according to means. The remaining £3m has to be covered by donations from the movement.

Under the AMI deal, £19m would have gone into a charitable trust to subsidize private hospital treatment for Masons at the Royal Masonic and other private hospitals.

AMI and the hospital would have to put £1.2m each into a trust fund to run the nurses' school, with AMI topping up the running expenses.

## Three jailed for kidnap death

Relatives of Karen Harris, aged 15, who was kidnapped to be forced into prostitution, cheered yesterday as two prostitutes and their pimp were sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court after being found guilty of manslaughter. They had all denied the charge.

The pimp was sentenced to 10 years' jail and the prostitutes to eight years' youth custody each.

The girl fell 200 feet to her death last March from a nineteenth-floor flat where she had been locked up. She had fought Caroline Middleton, one of the prostitutes, who had been left in charge of her. The girl had been given leave from Greencroft Children's Home, Bilston, Wolverhampton, at the time of the kidnap, but was working as a prostitute in Birmingham. An inquiry is being held at the home.

Mervil Dowell, aged 36, of Highgate, Birmingham; Deirdre Finnegan, aged 20, of Gilt Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham; and Caroline Middleton, aged 19, of Eve Hill, Dudley, West Midlands, were all found guilty of manslaughter. The two women admitted abduction. Dowell denied abduction but was found guilty. He was sentenced to eight years' jail for abduction and 10 years' for manslaughter. The sentences will run concurrently. The two women were each sentenced to six years' youth custody for abduction and eight years' for manslaughter. Their sentences will run concurrently.



## OBE for record holder

Honoured: Richard Noble, the holder of the land speed record, and his wife Sally and daughter Miranda, aged five, and Genevieve, aged three, leaving their home yesterday for Buckingham Palace, where he received the OBE.

It took Mr Noble, aged 37, a businessman from Twickenham, London, nine years to reach a speed of 633.446 mph in a four-ton, jet-powered car.

Yesterday the Queen asked him if he was going to continue "I said we were waiting for the Americans to make a challenge," he said. That would involve cars with a speed faster than sound in the region of 700 or 800 mph.

Meanwhile, Mr Noble has started a commercial company developing a new British single-engine aircraft.

Johnny Morris, the broadcaster, also received the insignia of the OBE, yesterday.

## Telephone bid of £64,000 for missal stand

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A Japanese lacquer missal stand which had been bought on the Continent earlier this year for about £500 was sold at Christie's yesterday for £64,800, to a private collector bidding over the telephone.

It is one of the very rare mementoes of the highly-successful missionary work of Jesuits in Japan in the last decades of the sixteenth century which ended dramatically in about 1600 with an anti-Christian edict and the crucifixion of both missionaries and local Christians.

Japanese craftsmen faithfully copied European religious paintings and church furnishings, producing a fascinating

mix of Eastern and Western art. The folding missal stand is of European design and is decorated with the device of the Society of Jesus, IHS, in the middle of a sunburst, but it used gold hiramakie and an inlay of aoi on a black lacquer ground to produce a superbly rich Eastern effect. The clever purchaser had bought it because he remembered a very similar missal stand sold for £32,400 at Christie's last year.

After the Jesuits came the Dutch traders and Christie's sale also included a late seventeenth century Imari porcelain figure of a roistering Dutchman astride a barrel of Dutch gin at £18,360.

Miss Sadler had a paper gag pushed down her throat and a wire ligature tightened round her neck, Professor Keith Mant, pathologist, said.

Mr Vaughan had been twice slashed in the throat with a Stanley-type knife. The first cut sliced into muscle and did not kill him. So the killer tried again, this time going through the voice box and severing an artery.

The jury has been told that Mr Carty's trainer shoes matched footprints in blood found in the corridor of the basement. The trial continues today.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20; Belgium 20 frs 50; Canada \$20; Denmark 20 kr; France 20 frs; Germany 20 DM; Greece 20 dr; Hong Kong \$20; India 20 rupees; Ireland 20 shillings; Italy 20 lire; Japan 20 yen; Korea 20 won; Luxembourg 20 francs; Malaysia 20 ringgits; Mexico 20 pesos; Netherlands 20 guilders; New Zealand 20 dollars; Norway 20 kroner; Portugal 20 escudos; Singapore 20 dollars; South Africa 20 rand; Sweden 20 kronor; Switzerland 20 francs; Taiwan 20 dollars; Thailand 20 baht; United Kingdom 20 pence; USA 20 cents; Yugoslavia 20 dinars.

## THE HANG-UPS OF A SELLERPHONE OPERATOR.



Selling by telephone is now very big business and good 'phoners' can earn big money. But the job's a tough one, involving long hours and training which critics describe as 'brainwashing'.

Read "High Pitched Selling" in December's Cosmo. It's an interesting story - entertainingly told.

**SURPRISING COSMOPOLITAN**



## BBC anger at suggestion that public prefers TV adverts to dearer licence

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC was angered by a new opinion poll last night which was claimed to show that the public overwhelmingly prefers limited advertising on the BBC to an increase in the present £46 colour television licence fee.

The advertising agency, D'Arcy MacManus Masius, which commissioned the survey from NOP Market Research, said that 77 per cent of the 1,879 people interviewed agreed to pegging the licence in return for one advertisement an hour being shown. Only 18 per cent agreed with an alternative option to increase the licence fee to £60 without advertisements.

The BBC, which has asked for a new licence fee of about £67, refused to comment on the poll, but a senior corporation executive rejected the agency's interpretation, and pointed out that people answering the poll had been told that both questions assumed that the quality of programmes would not be affected by either option.

"Our whole case against advertising is based on the idea that it would lead to a deterioration in programme standards, so the idea doesn't really make sense", the executive commented.

The corporation was pleased

by one aspect of the poll: 50 per cent of those interviewed would be unhappy about the introduction of advertising.

Mr Rodney Harris, the agency's media director, said that this was not an outright rejection of advertising. "People feel initially that because the BBC has been non-commercial for all these years it ought to stay like that. When it comes down to the real crunch question of whether they want to pay more money or have advertising, then it is clear they would like advertising."

Masius launched a campaign to persuade the Government to introduce a limited amount of advertising earlier this year. The BBC has steadfastly rejected the idea, claiming that it would force both it and ITV downmarket.

But Mr Harris said that the survey showed that 36 per cent of people did not think programmes would suffer from the move.

Mr Harris said that the BBC's concern about a ratings war with American lines was irrelevant, because the American analogy did not apply here. "What is more relevant is Jeremy Isaacs's Channel 4, providing minority audiences with high quality programmes. He does not go for high ratings,

yet despite the Equity dispute he has been very successful in attracting advertisers. The BBC is crying wolf."

The following were among the questions asked. The figure after each answer is a percentage, including multiple answers.

Which services does money raised by the TV licence fees support? BBC television, 36; BBC TV and radio and ITV, 9; BBC TV and radio, 47; Don't know, 9.

From which of these sources does ITV obtain funding? TV licence fee, 7; Money from advertising, 88; Government grants, 3; Other, 1; Don't know, 7.

I would be unhappy about advertising on BBC TV. Agree strongly, 27; Agree, 23; Disagree, 32; Disagree strongly, 15; Don't know, 4.

Would the quality of BBC TV suffer from ads? Agree strongly, 14; Agree, 23; Disagree, 42; Disagree strongly, 14; Don't know, 6.

The current cost of a colour TV licence is £46. Assuming you had to choose one of these options, which would you prefer, assuming the quality of programmes is not altered? TV licence fee at £46 plus one ad per hour on BBC, 77; TV licence fee at £60 and no ads on BBC, 18; Don't know, 5.

## Speaking clock to alter tone



Time for a change: Miss Pat Simmonds (right) the precise voice behind the telephone "speaking clock" since 1963, is to be retired some time in the spring.

A successor to Miss Simmonds, a retired supervisor who replaced Miss Ethel Cain (far right), will be announced next Wednesday from the 12 British Telecom employees (above) displayed to the media yesterday.

Mr Brian Cobby, the only man, who is acting night supervisor at Withead, East Sussex, emerged as favourite with his timely rendering of: "At the third stroke it will be nine fifty-nine and 20 seconds."

The first speaking clock was introduced in July 1936 in London. (Group photograph: Harry Kerr).

## Government backs Bill against kerb crawling

The Government is backing a private member's Bill to be introduced this session which will create three new criminal offences, aimed at tackling the nuisance of kerb-crawling.

Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth, Drake, who has drawn second place in the private member's ballot, is to introduce a Bill on kerb-crawling along the lines of the recent report by the Criminal Law Revision Committee.

That committee, under Lord Justice Lawton, called for three new criminal offences to deter men from accosting women, whether from a car or on foot, with possible fines of up to £2,000.

It would be illegal for a man to use a vehicle in a street or public place to solicit a woman for prostitution; to solicit persistently a woman in such circumstances and for a man to solicit a woman for sexual purposes "in a manner likely to put her in fear."

The first two offences would have possible maximum fines of £400, and the third a possible maximum fine of £2,000.

Miss Fookes said she had been "swamped" with requests to introduce a Bill, on some 40 different subjects, but had chosen kerb-crawling for several reasons.

"The first, and most important, is that there are, in some towns, virtual no-go areas where women fear to go."

## Sales boost in personal computer market

There will be more than 11 million personal computers in Europe by the end of the decade, according to a newly published survey highlighting the market growth in Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland.

The survey, conducted by the Paris-based market research group, Intelligent Electronics Europe, focuses on the sales of computers which sell for more than \$1,000.

According to the study: "The European personal computer market is just entering a period of dramatic growth which should be sustained until well into the 1990s. Personal computers have now begun to penetrate the large companies in most of the countries and the penetration rate is likely to continue."

More than a quarter of the Sinclair Spectrums sold through main high street outlets in the six months before October were returned largely because of product faults, a report published by market researchers Business Decisions claims.

The study conducted for Venture UK, among 100 retailers, showed that Commodore had also a poor failure rate with 18 per cent of its Vic 20s and 13 per cent of the Commodore 64s being returned.

Sinclair claims that its return figures are substantially lower than those revealed by the survey.

## Prince's jobs idea takes off

A backyard business venture initiated by the Prince of Wales is being used to promote a competition aimed at creating non-farming jobs in rural areas.

It was the Prince's idea to convert derelict farm buildings on his Street Farm at Tetbury, Gloucestershire, into five modern "small workshop units" to help the setting up of small

businesses on Duchy of Cornwall land.

A publicity brochure for the 1985 Rural Employment Awards shows "before" and "after" photographs of the conversion project. The competition, with its £1,000 prize, is sponsored by the Country Landowner's Association and the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas.

## Holiday failure safeguard

Barclaycard yesterday revealed a new insurance scheme under which holiday makers who have paid for their holiday through the company are guaranteed compensation if the tour operator's business collapses.

The scheme is underwritten by Lloyd's of London, the main London insurance market, and will cover holidays paid for after November 20, 1984.

Since Laker Air Travel collapsed two years ago, the

credit card companies, the Association of British Travel Agents and the Air Travel Reserve Fund, have been arguing about who should reimburse the victims of holiday company bankruptcies.

Barclaycard, for example, paid out £150,000 to Laker victims but did not admit any legal obligation to do so.

Barclaycard's new scheme now breaks the deadlock by guaranteeing compensation to

its clients on a formal basis. It covers payments to tour operators, but not to travel agents or airlines.

Access, the other main credit card company, is expected to follow suit within days.

About £80m worth of holidays have been paid for with Barclaycards through more than 600 tour operators this year. About 20 per cent of all holidays were booked by credit card.

## Average mortgage under £22,000

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The average mortgage for house and flat buyers in Greater London and its commuter belt this year is nearly £27,000, compared with just under £22,000 for the United Kingdom, according to a survey published yesterday by the Nationwide Building Society.

In Greater London the average price of property purchased is £41,282 and in the London commuter belt £45,398, compared with the UK average of £34,257.

The survey, *Lending in the Major Conurbations*, based on mortgages granted by the society during the first nine months of the year, covers the two London areas; Lothian/Strathclyde; Belfast; Merseyside; Greater Manchester; South Wales; South and West Yorkshire, and the North-east.

More than half the homebuyers in Greater London, Lothian/Strathclyde and Belfast were first-time buyers, while in the London commuter belt 34.8 per cent were first-time buyers. In Greater London 16.1 per cent rented privately before buying, almost twice as high a proportion as in any of the other eight conurbations.

Over the whole UK, about 20 in 100 buyers had been living with family or friends, ranging from 17.6 per cent in the London commuter belt and 23.7 per cent in Greater London to 26.5 per cent in Merseyside/Greater Manchester and 38.2 per cent in Belfast.

Former local authority tenants provided 21.6 per cent of first-time buyers in Lothian/Strathclyde and 16.5 per cent in Belfast, compared with 7.8 per cent in South Wales and 7.2 per cent in the London commuter belt.

Employment status differed markedly among the borrowers, professions and managers totalled 39.1 per cent in the London commuter belt and 35.9 per cent in Greater London and 10.9 per cent in Belfast. Skilled manual workers were the largest group in Lothian/Strathclyde, Belfast, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, South and West Yorkshire and the North-east.

The percentage of single borrowers in Greater London was 21.2 per cent, compared with 20.1 per cent in Lothian/Strathclyde and a national average of 28.1 per cent.

The cost of rebuilding a house or bungalow increased by 5.1 per cent during the year to September, 1984, the British Insurance Association said. Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' figures show that a house which would have cost £50,000 to rebuild in September 1983, would cost £52,500 by September.

Depending on the house's size and age, and the area, rebuilding costs £30 to £51.50 per square foot of the outside floor area.

Leaflet available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Leaflets (H), Aldermore House, Queen Street, London EC4N 1TU.

## Charitable gambler avoids jail

A professional gambler paid £10,000 (£3,300) yesterday to avoid spending Christmas in jail.

Barney Curley, aged 43, was appealing at Mullingar Circuit Court in co Westmeath against a three-month prison sentence imposed earlier this year for running an illegal lottery. A lower court had ruled that he broke the law when he raffled his £1.5m Irish home.

Yesterday Judge O'Malley removed the sentence and applied the Probation Act instead. He said no conviction would be recorded if Curley agreed to pay £5,000 to a Roman Catholic charity, the Society of St Vincent de Paul, to distribute among the poor at Christmas. Curley immediately offered to double the figure.

## Motoring fine for Marilyn

Marilyn, the pop singer, was fined £30 at Highbury Magistrates' Court yesterday after he admitted driving through a red traffic light in Camden Town, north London, in August and £20 for failing to produce his driving licence and insurance.

Marilyn, aged 22, who was wearing a long brown coat, blue jeans, check shirt, with his hair tied with a pink ribbon, said afterwards: "I enjoyed that, it was quite a funny, interesting experience."

## Sangster break

Mrs Robert Sangster, wife of the millionaire racehorse owner, said yesterday that she had "reluctantly decided to seek either a judicial separation or a divorce". She added: "I am deeply upset. I have no further comment to make."

## Champion video

The adventure film *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, which broke all cinema box office records, has won the Golden Cassette award for the most rented video film of the year.

## Divided train

British Rail yesterday began investigating a coupling failure that split the Glasgow to Euston Inter-City train at Brinklow, Warwickshire, on Monday leaving seven carriages stranded.

## Church worker lived like St Francis of Assisi

The Methodist Church has been ordered to pay compensation for unfair dismissal of an employee who imitated St Francis of Assisi and lived out in the woods caring for trees and talking to his animals.

Mr John Robinson, aged 27, an agricultural expert, told an industrial tribunal in Birmingham that he had worked, most of the time for a wage of £20 a week for four years as warden of the 22-acre church-owned Peck Wood, Rowney Green, Worcestershire.

He said he followed the ideas of St Francis, and had looked after the woodland, cared for

animals, including domestic goats, hens and ducks, and had helped the church to build up a holiday centre for deprived children who came to stay in minimal accommodation in woodland huts. He said that he had been given a caravan to live in which the organizing committee had bought from one of its members for £100.

Mr Robinson, who had received recent rises bringing his wage up to £80 a week, could receive up to £3,000 in compensation when negotiations are completed. That would be in addition to a £400 *ex gratia* payment.

## Lead pollution in school play yards

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Excessive concentrations of lead have been found in 15 streets and 50 school playgrounds in London and measurements of dust and air. The "hot-spots" were discovered in an assessment of lead pollution from traffic emissions; newspaper printing; and external redecoration of schools.

The analyses, by the scientific services branch of the Greater London Council show that Fleet Street has one of the highest lead contamination levels in London. The cause is attributed more to lead in dust being inadvertently taken out from newspaper printworks than to the contribution from vehicles.

Talks have begun between the newspaper industry, local authorities, the Health and Safety Executive and the GLC to reduce sources of lead discharges.

Other sites for roadside measurements on busy routes were in the City and the boroughs of Brent, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, and at Westminster and Kingston.

Of 15 locations, three had levels above recommended limits for concentrations in air, with the highest in Talgarth Road, Hammersmith.

All locations exceeded the

recommended level when concentrations in the air in the dust were taken together.

The recommended figure for air is two micrograms per cubic metre for dust 5,000 parts per million (ppm) and together one microgram per cu m in air, measured as a three-monthly average figure, and 500 ppm dust.

Hot-spot survey results first found in an assessment of lead in dust and air. The following table shows the results of dust and air measurements at 15 locations in London and the surrounding area. The table shows the results of dust and air measurements at 15 locations in London and the surrounding area. The table shows the results of dust and air measurements at 15 locations in London and the surrounding area.

# Why go to an impersonal bank for a personal loan?

Whenever you borrow money from a bank, or from any other source come to that, you'll find you're charged quite a lot of interest. A loan is not a hand out: you buy it with your hard-earned money.

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After all, you'd be unlikely to buy a hi-fi system from a shop where they could scarcely be bothered to talk to you. You'd prefer to go where an experienced member of staff will take the time to listen to your particular requirements and then guide you to the best set-up to suit your needs.

That's the sort of service we think a bank should offer to people who apply for a personal loan, whether they want to buy a hi-fi, a car, a holiday or anything else that may

take their fancy.

It's called 'personal' service, and as a slightly smaller bank with years of experience of delivering this kind of service, we may well be the best people to give it to you.

If you're about to apply for a personal loan, these are the other things you should remember.

Our personal loans range from £300 to £5,000 and the maximum repayment period is usually 36 months. To give you an example, suppose you were to borrow £2,000 and repay over 36 months at the current flat rate of interest of 11% per annum, the monthly instalment would be £73.89, making a total of £2,660 at an APR of 21.4%. (Rates correct at time of going to press.)

You must be over 18 to have a personal loan. Security may be required, but if it is there is no charge to the customer for legal fees.

But we think you should start by finding out where people work the hardest in return for your custom. In any Williams & Glyn's branch you will find a leaflet giving full details of our personal loans, and the staff will be happy to give you any further information you require. And of course, they will treat you as what you are. A paying customer.

Alternatively write to Williams & Glyn's Bank plc, Department PL, FREEPOST, London EC3B 3LP.

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# NUM leadership could put an end to violence

## COAL DISPUTE

Violence in the mining dispute could be stopped by the leadership of the NUM if it chose to do so, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questioning.

In the exchanges, Mr George Giddens (Reigate, C) asked: Will the Prime Minister accept congratulations from her colleagues for the perspective analysis she made last night of the danger facing democracy in this country, (Labour protests)

When she returns to her theme of the Fascist left, will she point out the intimidation of miners, their wives and their children, has seen no equal since Oswald Mosely and his blackshirts brought fear to the Jews.

Mrs Thatcher: The intimidation and violence we have seen is a blot on the face of Britain and has done our reputation untold damage abroad, and our trade untold damage. (Interruptions) I some-

times wonder whether that is the object of the Labour Party.

Mr Alan Howarth (Stratford-on-Avon, C) said earlier: The miners of Yorkshire are returning to work because, in their own words, they are ashamed of intimidation and sickened by violence.

That unequivocal condemnation of violence should be endorsed by every MP. The refusal by the President of the NUM, Mr Arthur Scargill, to call off the violence indicates the unsavoury means that the left are willing to use to get their own way.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. Even if the violence were condemned by every member of the NUM and every member of the TUC, the acid test is whether the violence will stop. I believe it could be stopped by the leadership of the NUM if they choose to do so. The acid test again is whether the guidelines of the TUC will be followed.

Mr Allen McKay (Garnsey, West and Penistone, Lab): Her utterances and those of other Conservative ministers and MPs on this most damaging dispute are, to say the

least, less helpful than they could be. Instead of dividing and being divisive she should use her power and influence to bring people to the negotiating table and, in the interests of the mining communities, she should set in motion a public inquiry into picket line events.

Mrs Thatcher: I probably care more about the future of the coal industry than many Labour MPs.

There are good jobs available for most of them if they wish to return to work. It is the leadership of the NUM which, without consulting them, is deliberately making them suffer privation and some suffer violence and intimidation which has totally and utterly split the NUM.

That is the fault of the leadership of the NUM.

# Callaghan tribute to murdered envoy

## ASSASSINATION

There were expressions of sympathy from all sides of the House of Commons for the wife and family of Mr Percy Norris, the British Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay, who was murdered this morning.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, described it as a cowardly and senseless murder. It was an attempt to speculate on who may have been responsible or what their motive might have been.

Mr Luce said the Indian police were making every effort to capture the assassin, and were cooperating closely with the British High Commission.

After the assassination, the Indian government had immediately provided extra security for British diplomatic premises, including British Consulate offices.

He gave an assurance that the highest possible priority would be given to the security of British diplomats around the world, whatever adjustments were being made in the expenditure of the Foreign Office.

The security of the Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay had been inspected last year and the recommendations had been carried out. More recently the Indian authorities agreed to provide additional measures of their own.

But he emphasized that it was not possible for diplomats, any more than politicians, to carry out their functions properly and to be assured of absolute security at all times.

Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Hamilton, Lab): Will he make it clear that no terrorists, whether here in Britain or abroad, will persuade this country and its Parliament to alter its

friendship and long-standing links with the people of India?

Mr Luce: At the funeral of Mrs Callaghan, there was the strong possibility of demonstration on behalf of all parts of this House of the great friendship that exists between this country and the people of India.

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab): Only three weeks ago on the day of Mrs Gandhi's assassination I arrived in Bombay to be met by Percy Norris and his wife who took immediate care for my security and safety and regarded themselves as responsible for it until the time I left.

He was a most unassuming, capable officer and he and Mrs Norris had just arrived in Bombay and were both looking forward eagerly to serving this country in India, as they did.

I would like to express deep regret and sorrow for Mrs Norris and for the driver who had driven Mr Norris and his predecessors for 20 years.

Mr David Owen, leader of the SDP: Nothing must be said or done to call into question or doubt the capacity of India to pull together and survive the already shattering blow they have had.

Nothing should be said in this country, above all, to cause any suspicion in India government and people to overcome its problems.

Mr Luce: I am sure the views he expressed are the views of the vast majority of the House and the British people.

**Parliament today**

Commons (2.30): Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, completion of remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debates on unemployed; production and sale of books, particularly for schools; and the Ethiopian famine.

# Framework for more jobs

## EMPLOYMENT

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, reminded Mrs Margaret Thatcher during Prime Minister's questions of the commitment to full employment contained in the first general election manifesto on which she fought.

The 1950 election manifesto, Dr Owen said, bore the words: 'We regard the maintenance of full employment as the first aim of a Conservative government.'

Does Mrs Thatcher still subscribe to those words? If she did, would she not be better advised to speak for the majority of the people of this country?

Mrs Thatcher: The Government should do everything they possibly can to achieve the financial framework to maximize employment.

It must at the same time see that industries keep abreast of technological advances, as this Government is doing, and not extinguish the very enterprises from which future jobs will come.

I would have thought Dr Owen would have the same policy, he usually tries to imitate Conservative policies. (Laughter)

Mr David Wainwright (Walsall, North, Lab): In view of the attack on Government economic policies by the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Peter Walker) it is not surprising that he should wish to remain one of her ministers, or does he believe, like many on both sides, that he likes office far too much to act on his supposed convictions about the misery of mass unemployment?

Mrs Thatcher: I have Mr Walker's speech with me. Will he say precisely what he regards as an attack on the Government? I do not think he can have read the speech.

## COAL GRANT

A small group of Conservative MPs staged a revolt in the Commons early on Tuesday morning when the Government moved an order to enable the £1,200m limit imposed by the 1983 Coal Industry Act on deficit grant paid to the NCB in the financial years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 to be increased to £2,000m. The order was approved by 105 votes to two, a Government majority of 103.

Mr David Hunt, Under Secretary of State for Energy, moving the draft Coal Industry (Limit on Deficit Grants) Order 1984, said that over the two years 1983-84 and 1984-85 the National Coal Board was likely

to require at least £2,000m simply to meet its losses on revenue account. The Government (he went on) must support the case of the working miners and seek to point out to the country that we cannot possibly carry on with the level of losses the coal board is suffering at the present time.

The Coal Industry Act 1983 provided that the aggregate of deficit grant paid to the NCB in the financial years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 should not exceed £1,200m. Provision was made, however, for this limit to be raised in one or more stages to £2,000m by order.

Less than a year after the 1983 Act became law, and only halfway through the period it was intended to cover, the Government was

seeking the agreement of the House to this extension of the power to pay deficit grant.

The NCB made a very much larger loss in 1983-84 than had originally been anticipated and the strike and overtime ban increased it by £197m. Although the order before the House was not a direct consequence of the strike and was foreseen by the Government, the Government to meet at least part of the additional loss which the NCB would incur in 1984-85 because of the strike.

Mr Alex Eadie, and Opposition spokesman on energy (Midlothian, Lab), said it was a scandal that the coal board chairman still remained in office when at one time he described the dispute as a little local

difficulty outside of town. It was the Chancellor of the Exchequer who made the biggest gaffe of all when he talked about it being a worthwhile investment.

Mr Eric Cockburn (Ludlow, C) said it was time miners were told firmly that they could not expect endless subsidies from working people earning less than miners could earn. It was time that the tap was turned off. He could not support the Government in its request for this very large sum.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C) said the £2,000m represented 2p off income tax or 40p off a gallon of petrol. The extra £800m was a massive sum compared with the changes in overseas aid and the £39m cut from student grants. It was greater than

the whole Foreign Office budget, including overseas aid, and three times Britain's net contribution to the European Community.

It will mean (he continued) £1.5 a head for every man, woman and child in this country. I have in my constituency some 70,000 constituents, perhaps 100,000 souls. If I were to walk through the lobby with the Government tonight while I would be doing is depriving my constituency of £1,500,000 and I am not going to do it.

**Progress of Bills**

The Hereford City Council Bill, Surrey Bill and Worcester City Council Bill were read a second time and the Greater London Council (Money) (No 2) Bill was read the third time in the Commons.

# Cash for growth if next NHS pay settlement reasonable

## HEALTH SERVICE

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) asserted during Commons questions that Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, had sought to mislead MPs and the people with figures given on Government support for the health service.

Mr Fowler said the Government would spend next year £17 billion on the health service. This was, he said, an increase of £700m on the anticipated total spending for 1984-85 and £200m over the 1983-84 figure. He also said that the 1984 expenditure White Paper.

The funds allocated to health authorities would be increased by 1 per cent over the 1983-84 figure. Mr Fowler said that the Government would be required merely to keep pace with the rate of forecast inflation.

These figures (he said) demonstrated the reality of this Government's continuing commitment to the health service.

Mr Hamilton: However much he might seek to mislead the House and the country with these statistics, even his figures presume an increase in the pay of nurses and other health service staff.

This means that over the last few years these people, despite all the protestations of the minister and his

department, will continue to suffer a substantial reduction in their standard of living.

Mr Fowler: That is untypical of him. There is an extra £700 million. If pay is settled reasonably at 3 per cent, there would be 2 per cent for growth from cash inside the service. But the Government pay rises to health service workers over 3 per cent, it is expecting health service workers, some of the lowest paid in this country, to subsidize the NHS by a real pay cut when thousands of rich people are being given massive tax hand-outs?

Mr Fowler: The figures on hospital opening and closing are among the silliest he has ever used. He knows perfectly well we close small old hospitals and open new, bigger hospitals to meet the total number of beds opened under this Government is almost equal to those lost.

We are treating more patients. The health service is not in the business of conserving buildings or just providing beds; it is treating patients. It is treating more patients than were treated a year before.

On next year's pay settlement, the fact is we are planning for a cash increase of 5.5 per cent on top of this year's health spending. Within that the health service has to find its pay costs just as every other service.

Later, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said the United Kingdom spent 5.6 per cent of the gross domestic product on the NHS in 1983. The corresponding figure for 1978 was 4.3 per cent.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on health and

social security: Under this Government's record on the NHS, which he said some months ago 193 hospitals have been closed and only 35 opened.

If that was expansion, will he confirm that in this next year there is going to be contraction when for the first time he is forcing health service workers to cover costs of pay rises to health service workers over 3 per cent, it is expecting health service workers, some of the lowest paid in this country, to subsidize the NHS by a real pay cut when thousands of rich people are being given massive tax hand-outs?

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# Stopping illegal trade in birds

## ENVIRONMENT

The illegal trade in birds of prey were large profits to be made and possible connections with the international drug trade were causing particular concern to the Government and action was being taken, Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in the Commons.

He told MPs in a debate on the natural environment and the national heritage of Britain that the Government was imposing a moratorium on all movements of all diurnal birds of prey between the United Kingdom and Germany. This was being done on the advice of his department's enforcement team.

The Government would be rigorous in pursuit of illegal trade of endangered species and was convening an action seminar of international enforcement officers in Bristol in two weeks' time to find ways of making enforcement more effective.

One aspect of the Government's approach to reconciliation of interests was the explicit attempt for the first time to put into effect powers to use common agriculture policy money for conservation objectives. This had been welcomed among conservationists and farmers who were interested.

The support of the initiative, he had said, the subject of the interaction of agriculture in the environment with the relevant EEC Commission and the environment council. Britain would be able to use common agriculture policy money for conservation objectives. This had been welcomed among conservationists and farmers who were interested.

The Government was guilty of dragging its feet over conservation issues, Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said when he opened the debate and moved an Opposition motion which expressed widespread concern about the alarming deterioration of the natural environment and called on the Government to respond immediately with action and legislation.

He said the Government had

become laggard in its approach to acid rain. It was not enough to hide behind research and the call for a concerted international approach. There also needed to be a target date set for a ban on nuclear waste emissions into the sea.

Agriculture was always presented as a benign industry, but should be taken to prevent the over-use and abuse of fertilizers and pesticides.

Mr Waldegrave moved a Government amendment noting the increased resources the Government was devoting to protecting the environment and the heritage.

He said the Government approach to countryside matters was based on a framework within which

said he was determined that the Government, in conserving a proper international commitment to conservation, recognized the need for action. The Tories were niggardly in provision and lethargic in response to problems.

Mr Hector Moore (Dumfries, C) said the Government was some sign that the Government was becoming a little green at the edges but it still had a long way to go.

The countryside should not be turned into a museum and place for tourists, he said. It should be a place where people lived and worked.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) said that shortly the environment select committee was going to make recommendations to the Government on the section of the Wildlife and Countryside Act dealing with sites of special scientific interest.

It had been estimated that in the past 35 years over half the country's lowland heaths had been lost, half its lowland drained, over one third of the ancient woodlands felled and over a quarter of upland heaths and moorlands degraded.

The scope of the change had been quite dramatic. If this was principally a result of the intensification of agriculture it was due to the fault of the farmers but to successive governments who had wished and willed maximum food production. It had been achieved by a system of agricultural subsidies.

The countryside could not be protected by a complete ban on the use of fertilizers and pesticides. It was the scale of the change that was worrying. At the least the system of financial support for agriculture had to be supplemented with a more coherent and comprehensive structure of subsidies and grants for conservation.

The Opposition "meat market" was rejected by 276 votes to 190 - Government majority, 86.

The Government amendment was agreed to.

Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab)

farmers and conservationists lived together. The Wildlife and Countryside Act was passed, there had been a growth of a new consensus among farmers and conservationists. Under the Act conflicts could be resolved.

There was a consensus in the House for a limited change to the Wildlife and Countryside Act, primarily to block the three-month loophole. The Government was moving to amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act, primarily to block the three-month loophole. The Government was moving to amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act, primarily to block the three-month loophole.

The Government took seriously the death of swans from fisherman's lead weights. If an effective voluntary agreement could not be made it would consider legislation.

He said the Government had

Ministerial statements repeated in the House of Lords would not be televised during the experimental period as it would be undesirable to risk the good will of ministers in the House of Commons. Live broadcasting would, in any case, be very rare, most programmes having been recorded and edited.

While it was unlikely select committees would be televised very often, the committee saw no reason for their exclusion from the experiment.

The EEC had offered to provide the House with a copy tape of material used on their programme. The BBC could be relied on to relay the House's video recorder for the benefit of any peers who had missed the debate. Tapes would also be supplied to enable the House to access the editorial process.

Lord Chalfont (Ind) moved an amendment saying the select committee report should not be implemented until the Commons agreed to hold an experiment.

He said Lords proceedings were already publicly available through the Official Report, the press gallery and sound broadcasting. No one was deprived of knowledge of what went on in the House by the absence of television cameras.

The television camera, unlike the microphone or any other instrument of reporting, was capable of making news as well as reporting it. Nobody's behaviour remained entirely unchanged when he or she knew that a camera was present.

The House was not a place for great oratorical oratory. Its members addressed each other courteously and usually with respect. He feared that a great deal of that might change when the television lights were on and the red light on the camera was glowing.

If the proceedings were to be televised, even for an experimental

# Hattersley condemns BT sale 'bungle'

## SHARES

Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, challenged the Prime Minister at question time in the Commons to say how much money would be lost to the Exchequer because of what he described as bungling over the flotation of the British Telecom shares.

He said Sirs and American bankers and brokers were buying forward to obtain BT shares and offering 40 per cent above the pre-issue price even before the issue had closed.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher: The Exchequer will have its money by virtue of the underwriting. What Mr Hattersley cannot stand is the success of the issue.

Mr Hattersley: Mrs Thatcher either does not understand the law or she is careless of its application.

The practice I have described is illegal, or would be, if it were operated by British subscribers. Why does she choose to ignore or boast about such a practice?

Mrs Thatcher: If there is anything illegal it is dealt with by the British courts totally and impartially.

Mr Hattersley does not want more extensive share ownership in this country and therefore he condemns the privatization of BT.

# Home loans of long-term unemployed

New arrangements for handling the mortgage interest payments of long-term unemployed were called for by Mr Roy Galley (Halifax, C) during questions in the Commons.

He asked Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Social Security, to consider, in consultation with the social security advisory committee for long-term unemployed and others, the possibilities of new arrangements for mortgage interest payments to go direct to the lender and not to the borrower, in view of the abuses that were taking place.

Mr Newton said he was conscious of this concern and had expressed it before.

But large number of people may feel (he added) that it should not become an automatic consequence of becoming unemployed that a building society is immediately told by the local social security office.

**Report early in new year on cot deaths**

The Government was looking forward to receiving early in the new year a report from Professor John Knowlton from the University of Sheffield into the problem of cot deaths. Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of Health and Social Security, said during Commons questions.

This report was the result of seven years' work, he said in reply to Mr Roy Galley (Halifax, C) who had asked for more regularity in the harrowing topic of cot deaths.

**Licensing laws**

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in Commons written reply that the Home Secretary had no plans to reform the licensing laws but the matter was kept under review.

# Drug firms 'screaming blue murder'

## PRICE SCHEME

Arrangements have been made for Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, to meet representatives of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry to discuss the drug price regulation scheme.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said during questions.

He was asked for an assurance by Mr Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke, C) that the measures resulting from Mr Fowler's recent statement about drug pricing would not effectively deny NHS patients some important drugs such as the arthritis drug, Distalgesic.

Mr Fowler replied: There are branded drugs which have been developed specifically for the relief of arthritis which will still be available. At present Distalgesic is not in this category. We are committed to this limited time scheme and the whole point of having a consultation period is to listen to the arguments on particular drugs.

Mr Jack Ashby (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab): He should resist the selfish and distorted propaganda of the pharmaceutical industry which is now screaming blue murder. The NHS is not a charity. It is a public service. It is independent of the pharmaceutical industry which is now screaming blue murder. The NHS is not a charity. It is a public service. It is independent of the pharmaceutical industry which is now screaming blue murder.

Mr Fowler: There is a balance to be held in these proposals. It is in one's interest to take measures which are going to reduce the cost of the pharmaceutical industry in this country, but I believe that in the proposals we are not doing that. We are making useful savings in the health service budget, and the quality of the proposals should be supported.

Mr Robert McCreedy (Brentwood and Ongar, C): Will Mr Fowler confirm that though his proposals on generic prescribing will save the NHS money, there is no reason to doubt the efficacy of the alternative drugs? Those who have suggested we are moving towards one health service for the rich and one for the poor are guilty of mischievous nonsense. (Laughter)

Mr Fowler: I agree. Though there is laughter from the Opposition benches I am sure it was the Opposition's policy, too.

# Government acting to combat Aids

Action being taken by the Government to combat Aids - acquired immune deficiency syndrome - was spelled out by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, during Commons questions.

Mr Fowler said the Government was seeking to become self-sufficient in Factor 8 so that it would not be imported. He hoped this would be achieved by 1986.

His department had also issued leaflets and more important, he was seeking ways of testing blood donations. No screening test had yet been developed, but a pilot trial would be started in London in the next few weeks.

**Compulsory mud flaps for lorries**

Answering a question on standard spray suppression devices for heavy freight vehicles Lord Brabazon of Tara, the Government spokesman, told the House of Lords: The Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Nicholas Ridley, after consulting widely with all sections of the industry, has decided to regulate on October 10 and these are now before this House. They make mandatory the fitting of spray reducing equipment to heavy lorries.

These regulations would come into effect progressively from May 1, 1985, starting with new lorries followed by new motor vehicles and existing heavy lorries.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (C): Has he thought how to proceed from our own vehicles to our visitors from Europe who come here in large numbers with very large vehicles?

Lord Brabazon of Tara: At the moment visiting vehicles are exempt through the Geneva agreement. There is no European Community directive on this but we hope the Community will follow our lead and harmonization will follow based on our standards.

Lord Underhill (Lab): A number of heavy goods vehicles have been running with these for some time successfully and a reason why this order should not cover coaches?

Lord Brabazon of Tara: There is no proposal for these regulations to cover coaches, but I will draw the point to the attention of the Secretary of State.

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## Country sports groups unite to defeat animal rights campaign

By Colin Hughes

Britain's hunting, shooting, and fishing fraternity have united to form a national body dedicated to defending country sports against animal rights campaigners and other opponents.

The Council for Country Sports was inaugurated at a meeting yesterday at St Ermin's Hotel in London, attended by representatives from associations of every field sport from coarse angling to beagling, and tackle-makers to falconers.

The new body will form a pressure group to promote the role of country sports enthusiasts as natural conservationists, and will act as an umbrella organization to work with police and politicians in preventing disruptive demonstrations against the sports.

Sir Humphrey Atkins, the former government minister and keen fisherman, who will chair the new council, said: "More and more the lead in opposing country sports is being taken by people whose chief concern has nothing to do with the protection of wild animals, but simply with the extension of violence and lawlessness, and other challenges to the police."

The Council claims to represent more than 5 million country sports followers, including 3 million coarse and game anglers, 800,000 licensed gun-holders, and the 1 million huntmen and women who are

estimated to follow the country's 400 packs of hounds each year.

The three biggest organizations joining the launch are the British Field Sports Society, the British Association of Shooting and Conservation, and the National Angler's Council.

Representatives emphasized that people who pursue five quarry need to nurture the right habitat. A many field sportsmen are also country landowners, they argue, they are best placed to preserve hedgerows, woods, bird and mammal life and stretches of clean, open water.

Mr Richard Course, executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "I feel quite honoured that they're taking our campaign so seriously that they are having to react in this way. This new council is simply an extension of the existing Campaign for Country Sports, with the support of the same people who have failed to stop us before: they want to put the clock back, and they can't."

Mr Ronald Lee, spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, said that he understood those hunt saboteurs who had begun to react to violence from landowners by fighting back. "If you've been beaten up while trying to peacefully protest, it's not surprising that people decide to give as good as they get."



Song of survival: Boys of St Paul's cathedral choir singing Advent carols at the launch yesterday of an appeal, by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Alan Traill, for £500,000 for their choir school. Money is needed to give the school a separate foundation. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

## Fear protects £9m thieves

A gang of "powerful, ruthless, vicious and cruel" international crooks were behind the disposal of £9m of bonds stolen from a City bank, a judge at the Central Criminal Court in London said yesterday.

In spite of a huge police operation the ringleaders had never been discovered, because of "fear", Judge Abdala, QC, said.

Photocopies of the bonds had turned up in London, Dublin, on the Continent and in Saudi Arabia, where plans were made

to sell them. One man claimed that the IRA and Libyans were involved. Judge Abdala said, although the police had found no evidence to support the claim.

The man, James Farugia, aged 40, a hotel owner of St Paul's Bay, Malta, who said he was "too terrified" to give detectives information, was jailed for three years when he pleaded guilty to receiving eight of the bonds, worth £5.5m.

The bonds were stolen in a burglary at the Bank of Iran,

Eastcheap, in December, 1982.

Judge Abdala told Farugia: "This is something which has a very wide network of dangerous international crooks behind it. You became enmeshed in this web of intrigue. If you had given information about those running it, measures could have been taken to safeguard you and your family."

Mr Dorian Lovell-Park, for the prosecution, said Farugia, a father of four, was arrested at the Lancaster Gate Hotel, Bayswater, after a tip-off from police in Norway.

## Assaults on prison staff double in Scotland

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Assaults on staff in Scottish prisons have more than doubled in four years, from 75 in 1980 to 158 last year.

Describing the trend as "disturbing", Mr Alistair Thomson, director of the Scottish Prison Service, suggests two possible causes in the annual report on prisons, published yesterday.

First, an increasing number of inmates received into custody suffer from personality disorders or other forms of emotional instability, often attributable to drink or drugs.

Second, this rise may reflect an apparently violent society in general.

Perhaps the most dangerous of a number of serious incidents was perhaps when an inmate at Perth prison held a staff member hostage at knife point for 21 hours.

Prisons in Scotland Report for 1983 (Stationery Office: £4.25).

## False names appeal to guests at bomb hotel

By Rupert Morris

Police investigating the IRA bombing at last month's Conservative Party conference in Brighton want to speak to several people who stayed in the Grand Hotel under false names between July 1 and October 11.

In particular, they want to interview a man who stayed with another person in room 530 on September 18, and in room 427 on October 2. Each time he booked a double room in the name of J. Morgan, of Small Dole, near Henfield.

Police also renewed their appeal to a man calling himself Roy Walsh, who gave a false address of 27 Braxfield Road, London, SE4, and stayed on September 15 and 18 in room 629.

These men are urged to get in touch with Brighton police on 0273 606744 (incident room), so that they can be eliminated from inquiries.

## Princess's uncle leaves £2.6m

Lord Fermoy, aged 45, uncle of the Princess of Wales, who shot himself while depressed at his home in Hungerford, Berkshire, on August 19, left estate valued at £2,695,251 net.

He directed his trustees to offer all his active polo ponies first to the Royal Horse Guards and secondly to the Household Brigade Polo Club. The rest of his property was left mainly to his family. Other wills, page 14

### The law's delay: 3

## Variations in bail at magistrates' courts

In magistrates' courts, the biggest problem is lack of information on where delays occur. In the last of three articles, FRANCES GIBB, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at the steps courts have been urged to take while this data is being collected.

Magistrates' courts, which deal with 90 per cent of all criminal cases, have been instructed by the Home Office to take measures to improve efficiency and reduce delays.

The first big problem is the granting of bail by courts, which early has a direct effect on numbers in custody. The Bail Act 1976 created a general right to bail, subject to certain exceptions such as where the alleged offence is imprisonable and there is a risk of further offences if bail is granted.

But there is a huge variation in the granting of bail by courts. After first remand, from 60 per cent to 90 per cent of defendants. The Home Office and chief police officers have just launched an inquiry into why this should be.

There is also considerable evidence, put before the Commons home affairs committee, that courts apply the Bail Act in different ways, particularly in the light of two court rulings which prevent fresh bail applications unless there are changed circumstances.

Those rulings, it was argued, determined Parliament's intention that bail should be considered afresh every eight days, and the MPs recommended that the decisions be reversed, by legislation if necessary. They also called for magistrates' courts to have power to require a surety for good behaviour when granting bail (at present it can be required only for an appearance); and for "bail" courts to use to prisons to deal with mands. Finally they called for bail hostels.

The Home Office response has been mixed. It has urged courts to make more use of two or three-day remands, or the gathering of further information while bail is being considered. But it has rejected any change to the bail rulings.

It has also rejected suggestions for good behaviour. Courts ready have power, it points out, to impose certain conditions to stop further offences interference with witnesses. Special "bail" courts would cost, the Home Office says, and would not necessarily

benefit the funding local authority. But it is considering greater use of courts' existing powers to transfer a case to a court nearer the defendant's prison, and also reviewing bail hostel provision.

On police bail, granted after a charge before the remand hearing, there is also great variation from area to area, with some police bailing for seven days, some for several weeks. The Home Office is now suggesting a three-week limit, with one week for most routine minor offences. Some courts have already agreed that police bail should be for only one day. But whatever the local circumstances, the period should not be left to the police, officials say.

Other steps include simplification of summons and committal procedures, longer court sitting hours, rationalization of charge sheets and a stricter attitude by court listing officers. The Justices' Clerks' Society estimates that delays arising from preparation of committal papers lie behind nearly half of all requests for adjournments. It suggests that those accused of indictable offences, subject to safeguards, be committed for trial without waiting for the service of written statements. The home affairs committee concluded that a statutory time limit would deal with this difficulty but the whole question of committal procedure none the less is under review.

Police have also agreed to give courts details at committals of how long the accused has been in custody.

Listing officers are being urged to take a tougher line with lawyers to reduce the number and length of adjournments.

The benefits of all these measures can be assessed only when the crucial information has been obtained on exactly where the delays are occurring. But it is likely that if they fail to show substantial results, the proposal resurrected by the Lord Chief Justice - to remove some minor offences from jury trial - will gain ground; the magistrates and the Lord Chancellor already strongly support it.

Concluded

## PIE extradition ruling delayed by Dutch

A court in Assen in The Netherlands, yesterday postponed a ruling on the extradition of Steven Smith, aged 29, who is being sought by British authorities on charges of obscenity and immorality relating to his membership in the Zedophile Information Exchange (ZIE).

Mr Leo Meijers, said the court had postponed the ruling to obtain more information out some minor details.

Mr Meijers said that although a court ruled that Mr Smith could not be extradited on the large pending against him in the United Kingdom of "soliciting adults to sexual intercourse with minors," it suspended final judgement "to give the British government the opportunity" provide more information on other charge.

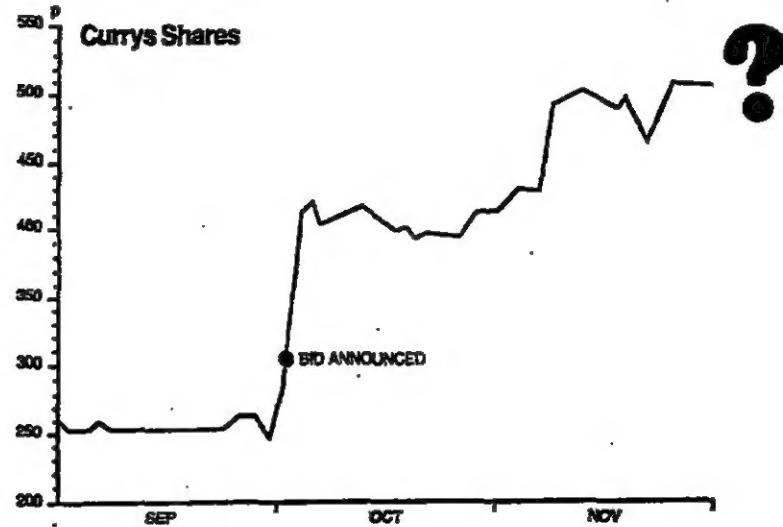
## Libel actions against paper are dropped

Mr Alex William Herbage, an investment broker, yesterday discontinued libel actions in the High Court against *The Sunday Times* about references to his bankruptcy.

His counsel, Miss Hilary Heilbron, told Mr Justice McNeill that in January, 1983, the newspaper mentioned he had been bankrupt and had been "100 per cent discharged".

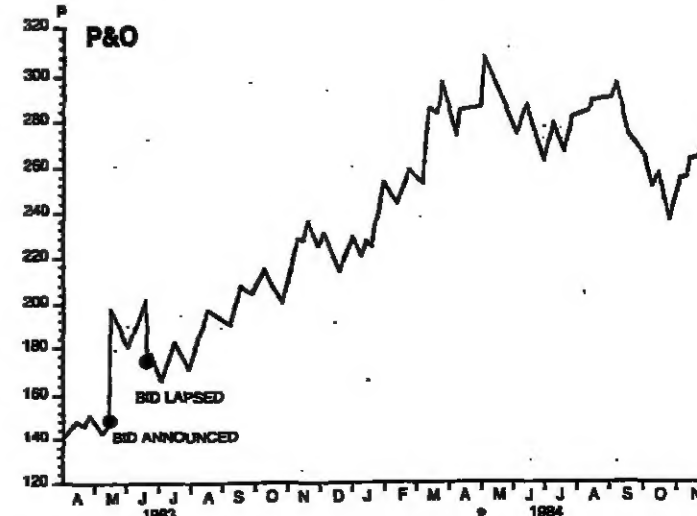
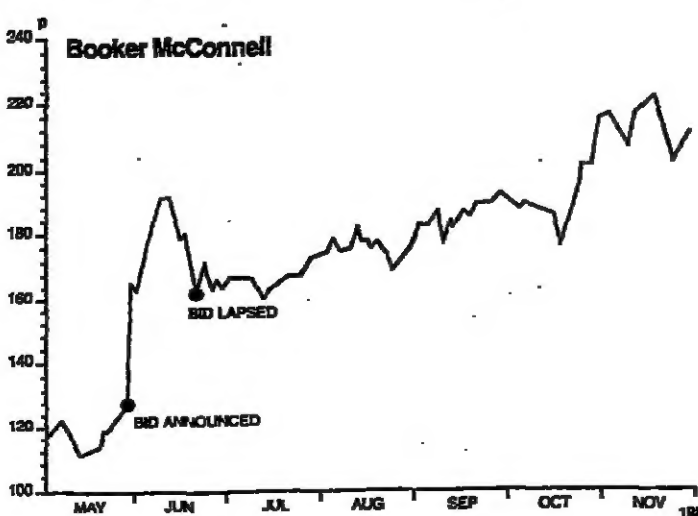
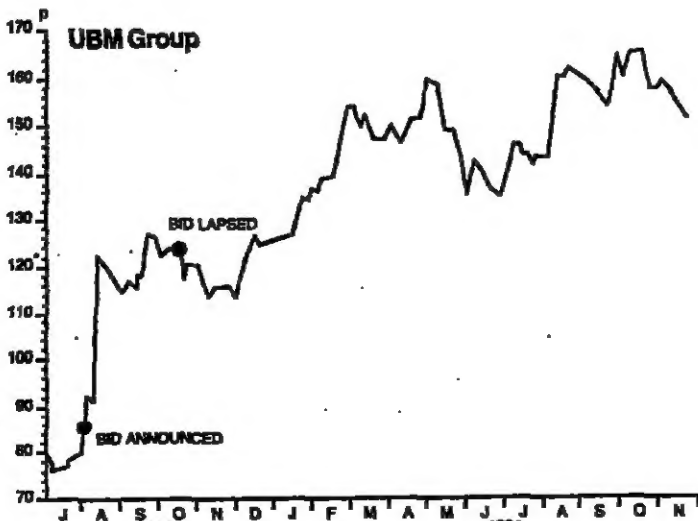
He had, in fact, had his bankruptcy annulled, having paid off his creditors in full, and because the court was satisfied on his general conduct. The newspaper recognized the distinction between annulment and discharge and accepted the statement in open court. Mr Herbage discontinued his action along with five others started between 1981 and 1983 about other references to him.

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\*Source: Data Stream, 1984. No account has been taken of the movement of share prices in the market generally.

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## Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Has Mr Kinnock made a breakthrough on arms control in his discussion with President Chernenko in Moscow? The Soviet leader has made two offers. The Soviet Union would be prepared to reduce and dismantle its missiles on a one-for-one basis for every British nuclear missile that was scrapped; and no Soviet nuclear weapons would be targeted on this country if Britain removed all nuclear weapons from its territory, in accordance with Labour's official defence policy.

The offer to match the reduction of British missiles would apparently apply not only to those British missiles already deployed, but also to Trident if Britain decided not to go ahead with it, though that is not clear from the press statement released by Tass.

These assurances spell out in rather more detail what President Andropov had offered in May 1983. But the critical question is not whether Mr Chernenko has put forward anything new, but whether he has proposed anything that would be worth accepting.

Those of us who believe in maintaining an independent British deterrent will not be attracted by the package. A partial reduction in the Soviet nuclear arsenal would be no compensation for the total loss of the British deterrent. Nor should one draw much comfort from a promise not to target weapons on Britain: such a decision could presumably be reversed swiftly in time of crisis.

But there are a good many people in this country who are not unilateralists, yet who believe that it will not be feasible for Britain to keep indefinitely its own deterrent. That will prove, in their judgement, to be just too expensive.

This school of thought might reasonably conclude that, if the independent deterrent has to be renounced anyway, it would be better to get something rather than nothing for such a concession. Whether Mr Chernenko was offering something or nothing would depend on whether he would permit the reduction of Soviet missiles to be verified adequately.

## Unilateral benefits

Mr Kinnock may at least judge that he has obtained something useful in political terms. At the last election Labour had no answer to the criticism that the party was willing to give up the British deterrent without getting anything in return. Now Mr Kinnock can claim that he has negotiated something, and that even an imperfect exchange would be better than nothing.

Labour proposes, however, not only to abandon Britain's independent deterrent but also to get rid of all American nuclear bases from British territory. Nothing that Mr Kinnock has obtained from Mr Chernenko would make that a safer course for Britain. Indeed, in one critical sense the Labour leader's discussion in Moscow has made his party's defence policy look an even more dangerous proposition.

The objection to removing American nuclear bases is not only, perhaps not even principally, that it would weaken the defence capability of the West. It is that such an action, imposed arbitrarily by one ally upon another, would destabilize NATO. It would breed uncertainty on the continent of Europe and encourage those in the United States who would like to reduce American force levels in Europe.

Yet that is also liable to be the effect of the leader of Britain's principal opposition party appearing to negotiate in Moscow for unilateral benefits for this country in exchange for unilateral actions.

Of course, it is reasonable for leading politicians from any Western country, whether in office or in opposition, to have discussions with the leaders of the Soviet Union. That is the way in which a broad East-West dialogue can be developed. It is a valuable means of exploring the thinking of the Kremlin. The whole of the Atlantic alliance can benefit from such activity.

But it can do so only if such discussions are conducted in a way that takes account of the needs of the whole alliance. Part of Mr Kinnock's conversation with Mr Chernenko came into that category. He was seeking to explore the possibilities for arms negotiations that might follow from Mr George Shultz's meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko in the new year. That was fair enough. He might possibly have gained some useful insights.

## Big increase in spending on arms announced at Supreme Soviet meeting

From Richard Owen, Moscow.

The Supreme Soviet, Russia's Parliament, yesterday met to approve a dramatic 12 per cent increase in the Soviet defence budget, apparently to match US military development.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the 53-year-old heir apparent to President Chernenko, made his reappearance at the session in the Kremlin, but Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, aged 76, the Defence Minister, did not. Marshal Ustinov is thought to be seriously ill.

Mr Gorbachev, who had been the subject of political speculation, took his seat in the Politburo front row on the Politburo, next to Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, and Mr Chernenko.

There is still no explanation why Mr Gorbachev was able to return from holiday to attend the Red Square parade on 7 November but not to attend crucial meetings of the leadership, including an enlarged Politburo session on 15 November and a meeting of the Supreme Soviet foreign affairs commission, of which he is chairman, last Friday.

Mr Gorbachev also failed to meet Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, even though he is to visit Britain in just over two weeks' time.

Yesterday Mr Gorbachev, wearing glasses, held animated conversations with Mr Gromyko while making copious notes. Mr Chernenko appeared fit but frail, holding on to the backs of chairs as he walked slowly into

the chamber of the Kremlin Great Palace.

The 1,500-member Supreme Soviet meets twice a year, and automatically endorses party policy without Western-style debate. This year policy was laid down by the enlarged Politburo session two weeks ago, and the Central Committee failed to convene on the eve of the Supreme Soviet, as it has done for at least 20 years.

Mr Boris Ponomarev, a candidate Politburo member, told *The Times* it was "not obligatory" to hold a plenum before the Supreme Soviet, and that there was broader discussion of economic issues in the Supreme Soviet in line with Mr Chernenko's dictum that the role of government (as opposed to party) should be enhanced.

Diplomats said they found that unconvincing, however, and said the plenum on Monday had been cancelled because of policy disagreements.

Marshall Nikolai Ogarkov, dismissed in September as Chief of Staff, appeared at the Soviet for the first time since his demotion, still with a marshal's star on his epaulettes. He sat, as he used to sit when in power, with hands folded on a desk clear of papers, as if bored by the economic speeches.

Yesterday, however, Mr Vasily Garbuzov, the Finance Minister, surprised observers by announcing an increase in the defence budget for 1985 to 19,000 rubles (£19.5bn), a 12 per cent increase. Defence spending had remained officially static for the past four

years, although Western experts say real defence spending in disguised under other headings and amounts to some 15 per cent of the total rather than the official 5 per cent.

The increase is none the less striking confirmation of the Soviet need to match costly American weapons development despite economic sacrifices at home. Marshal Ogarkov, who is thought to have been at the centre of a dispute over the arms race, remained impassive during the announcement.

Mr Garbuzov and Mr Nikolai Baibakov, head of state planning, also announced that national income had grown by 3.1 per cent in 1984. The growth rate target for 1985 is 3.5 per cent, a modest increase which partly reflects the diversion of scarce resources to defence.

Mr Baibakov said industrial production had risen by 4.4 per cent in 1984, compared to a target figure of 3.4 per cent. The target for 1985 is 3.9 per cent. Western observers said these figures were equivalent to a western gross national product growth rate of about 2.5 per cent.

No grain figure for 1984 was announced, confirming Western reports that the harvest has been poor. Mr Baibakov said that oil production, which this year was some four million tonnes below target at 615 million tonnes, would rise by only 2 per cent next year to 628 million tonnes. Gas production, on the other hand, was expected to rise to 632 billion cubic metres in 1985.

## More police fly in to curb island protests

## Paris thinks again on Noumea

From Diana Geddes, Paris

As the political storm over the French Government's handling of the state of virtual insurrection in New Caledonia continued in Paris yesterday, police reinforcements were flown to the Pacific Islands, and a senior Government official began talks in Noumea, the capital with various parties, including the former colony's separatists.

Separatists meanwhile are reported to be continuing to set fire to buildings, pillaging, blocking roads and slaughtering livestock in an attempt to persuade the Government to restrict to indigenous Kanaks the promised referendum on self-determination of the French overseas territory, thus virtually ensuring total independence from France.

The separatists, who on Saturday announced their own "provisional government" in opposition to the newly-elected territorial government, have succeeded in getting the Government to bring forward the referendum date, which was originally set for 1989.

No new date has yet been fixed, but the Kanaks evidently hope it will be before the 1986

French parliamentary elections, which are likely to return a right-wing majority less sympathetic to their separatist aspirations than is the present Government.

The *Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République*, which is affiliated to the Gaullist RPR party, vehemently opposes any form of independence, as its name implies. It won an unexpected landslide victory in the November 18 election for a new and semi-autonomous territorial Assembly, gaining 71 per cent of the vote.

Half the electorate failed to turn out to vote, however, marking as much of a victory for the separatist Front National de Libération Kanak, which had called for an election boycott.

Some 12,000 miles from Europe in the South Pacific, New Caledonia has belonged to the French since 1853. It has a population of 145,000, of which 43 per cent are Melanesian Kanaks, 37 per cent whites of French origin, and the rest mainly Asian immigrants. Most whites and immigrants oppose total break from France.

The French Government's original plan after this month's election was to set up a joint committee, composed half of Government representatives and half from the new Assembly, to draw up conditions and terms for the self-determination referendum.

The overwhelming victory of the anti-separatist vote and the strength of support for the separatist militants have both led the Government to re-examine the position.

The Minister for France's Overseas Departments and Territories, M. Georges Lemoine, caused an uproar at the weekend when he appeared to call into question the election results by drawing a distinction between "legal" representatives of those on the islands and the "real" representatives.

Under the terms of New Caledonia's new statute, the French Government may annul the election, but for the moment it is awaiting a decision by the administrative tribunal looking into alleged irregularities. In the meantime, the already beleaguered Government faces another very delicate situation it will not find easy to solve.

## Full text of Gibraltar agreement

The full text of the agreement on Gibraltar reached yesterday in Brussels is:

1. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Spanish Foreign Minister, His Excellency Señor Don Fernando Morán López, held a meeting in Brussels on November 27 during which they agreed on the way in which the Spanish and British Governments will apply by not later than February 15, 1985, the Lisbon Declaration of April 10, 1980, in all its parts. This will involve simultaneously:

(A) The provision of equality and reciprocity of rights for Spaniards in Gibraltar and Gibraltarians in Spain. This will be implemented through the mutual concession of the rights which citizens of EEC countries enjoy, taking into account the transitional periods and derogations agreed between Spain and Gibraltar. As concerns paid employment and recruiting, the general principle of Community preference will carry the implication that during the transitional period each side will be favourably disposed to each other's citizens when granting work permits.

(B) The establishment of the free movement of persons, vehicles and goods between Gibraltar and the neighbouring territory.

(C) The establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar and at promoting co-operation on a mutually beneficial basis on economic, cultural, tourism, aviation, military and environmental matters. Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in the process. The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 constitution.

2. Insofar as the airspace in the region of Gibraltar is concerned, the Spanish Government undertakes to take the early actions necessary to allow safe and effective air communications.

3. There will be meetings of working groups, which will be reviewed periodically in meetings for this purpose between the Spanish and British Foreign Ministers.



Brussels breakthrough: Señor Fernando Morán, Spain's Foreign Minister (right), arriving for yesterday's meeting, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, giving a press conference afterwards.

## González hails Rock pact

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

An "historic new process" had begun by yesterday's Anglo-Spanish agreement on Gibraltar, Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, said.

The agreement was reached after talks in Brussels between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and his Spanish counterpart, Señor Fernando Morán. Señor González said there was no place for shouting about triumphs, but the agreement did represent an advance for the whole of Spanish foreign policy.

Spain emphasized Britain's experts commitment to negotiate the sovereignty of Gibraltar. "For us, this really opens a process of decolonizing the Rock," the Spanish Foreign Minister spokesman said.

The state radio and television said it was "the first time since 1713, the end of the War of the Spanish Succession, when Spain lost the Rock, that a British government had ever agreed to

cede sovereignty." This had the effect of putting well into second place Madrid's unavoidable obligations to raise the final frontier restrictions on the Rock before Spain joins the EEC.

From Gibraltar, Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, speaking by telephone, said the agreement was an "honourable outcome" to lengthy negotiation and a first step towards fruitful cooperation between Gibraltar and its vicinity.

However, he reiterated Gibraltar's opposition to any negotiations over sovereignty. "We have always placed our faith in the British Government and people and we will continue to do so."

When the Spanish Foreign Minister spokesman was pressed by Spanish reporters to say exactly what recovering sovereignty meant, he replied: "That Gibraltar becomes just one more piece of Andalusia, of Spain."

Sir Joshua, asked to comment, said: "That's bloody nonsense. In my best Spanish."

In a note accompanying the joint agreement, Madrid yesterday clarified what questions, in its view, Britain had agreed to tackle regarding sovereignty. They covered "both the theme of sovereignty of the territory referred to in the Treaty of Utrecht as well as sovereignty of the isthmus, which was never ceded to Britain."

Spanish officials yesterday suggested that a visit to Madrid by Mrs Margaret Thatcher could occur soon, since the Brussels declaration had firmly established normal relations.

Representatives in La Linea, the nearest town on the Spanish side, yesterday expressed belief that the local economy would benefit.

And Sir Joshua spoke of "hundreds of thousands of tourists who would be able now to travel freely".

## Feeling good, looking good

## Heart man asks for a beer

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

William Schroeder's mechanical heart is pumping audibly at 60 beats a minute and "working beautifully," Dr William De-Vries, the implant surgeon, said yesterday.

"I asked him today: 'How are you doing?' He asked if the heart was working all right and I said: 'Yes, it is.' I asked him: 'Can I get you anything?' And he said: 'I'd like a can of beer'."



Cold comfort: Mr Schroeder being fed ice chips yesterday to quench his thirst in the Humana coronary unit.

"He is feeling good and looking good and everything is functioning on schedule. We are very pleased. He is doing excellently. I am very excited about the surgery. It went smoothly and there were no surprises," he added.

Dr De-Vries, aged 40, is the only surgeon in the United States licensed to carry out artificial heart implants. He performed the pioneering operation on Dr Barney Clark

at the University of Utah two years ago. Subsequently he went to the Humana chain of commercial hospitals which is funding an implant programme.

He sewed a pump into Mr Schroeder in a seven-hour operation at the Humana Heart Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, on Sunday.

Speaking for the first time about the operation, Dr De-Vries said Mr Schroeder, who is 52, was very close to death before the operation.

Before we went ahead he said he was happy with it, that he did not have any other choice. And he really didn't have any choice. That Saturday was going to be one of the last days of his life.

"We would have preferred to wait until Wednesday this week, but it became obvious on Friday afternoon that he was not going to survive the weekend. He deteriorated greatly and we did not get there any too soon. We selected Sunday morning and on Saturday night I was worried that he would have to die that night. But he stabilized."

Dr De-Vries said Mr Schroeder can feel the heart. It does not hurt, but he can feel it thumping. He says it feels "a little prominent."

The 10-oz steel and plastic pump is operated from a compressor, the size of a small refrigerator. Air tubes enter Mr

Schroeder's abdomen near the navel. Tomorrow and on Friday and Saturday doctors will have trial runs with a 12 lb portable compressor that could, in ideal circumstances, be carried in a shoulder bag, giving up to three hours of independence from the larger machine.

In medical circles the operation on Mr Schroeder, at a profit-making hospital, with attendant public relations activity, has opened a debate about the propriety of such work in a commercial organization.

A leading critic of the Humana programme is Dr Arnold Reiman, editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, who worries that doctors risk losing "the soul and integrity" of their profession by becoming involved in commercial hospitals.

Dr De-Vries said yesterday: "I have set up this project exactly the way I wanted without any question about costs and I have been able to select the patient without considering whether he would have to do it that night. I made no demands on what I can do. I have been impressed by the marriage between the two [commerce and medicine]. With the resources available here I can do the operations much better than I ever could in the so-called university hospital. I am very pleased with the way things are going."

## Indian opposition faces disaster over failure of poll pacts

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The Indian public has been watching with fascinated horror as the opposition parties, preparing to fight the general election at Christmas time, have been committing ritual suicide.

The only way that the opposition leaders have any chance of replacing Mr Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister is by combining and avoiding splitting the votes opposed to his Congress (I) party.

But it has now become clear that talks on agreements to put up single opposition candidates in the north of India, where the bulk of the parliamentary seats are, have hopelessly broken down.

The lessons of 1980 seem not to have been learnt. Of the 221 parliamentary seats in the Hindi belt - the heartland of confrontation between Congress and the national opposition parties - Congress won 145 that year, and between them the Janata party and Chowdhury Charan Singh's Lok Dal Party won 61.

If, however, Janata and Lok Dal had not split but had remained a united force, the score would have been 91 to Congress and 115 to Janata. Mrs Indira Gandhi may not have been able to form a government and she certainly would not have had the two-thirds majority in Parliament she ended up with - with only 42.8 per cent of the vote.

The opposition parties are now more divided than they were in 1980; since then the Jana Sangh section of the Janata

## Luce assures MPs of security priority

Cuts in the Foreign Office

budget announced last week will not affect the priority given to the security of diplomats abroad, Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told MPs yesterday (Philip Webster writes).

Mr Luce gave the assurance demanded by the Opposition and Sir Peter Blaker, chairman of the Conservative backbench foreign affairs committee, after the murder of Mr Norris.

Security spending for the protection of diplomats in various parts of the world had increased considerably and, "as far as we can see, will continue to increase".

Party separated and re-formed as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Across the Hindi belt all three segments of the coalition that ruled from 1977 to 1979 have failed to agree on non-aggression pacts. The result will very likely be that two or even three opposition candidates will divide the anti-Congress votes in most of the seats across this vital section of the country.

Talks to create a national plan of campaign were held under the auspices of Mr N. T. Rama Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, whose own Telugu Desam Party does not exist outside his state, but whose position is dominant within it. They failed and Mr Rama Rao took himself off back to Andhra, grumbling to his aides that the petty squabbles of the other leaders appalled him. He is reported to have told his confidants that he no longer wished to campaign outside his own state and made a public announcement to his supporters to that effect.

Since then talks on a bilateral basis have been taking place state by state. Only in Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu do any agreements (the Indians call them "seat adjustments") seem to have been reached. These are well outside the Hindi heartland, and in Gujarat at least Congress won a perfectly respectable 10 out of 26 seats.

## Troops patrol Santiago on first day of protest

Santiago (AFP) - Armed

soldiers patrolled the streets of the Chilean capital in full combat uniform yesterday at the beginning of the first of two days of national protest against the 11-year military regime of General Augusto Pinochet. Commuter bus garages reported a full service, but many buses reaching the city centre were less than half full. Shops were open, but in La Valdivia the city's biggest vegetable and meat wholesale markets operated at about half capacity at the peak delivery hour because of lack of transport.

The first clash was not reported until early afternoon when police used water-cannon to disperse a city centre gathering. Armoured vehicles and soldiers were most in

evidence in the capital's working-class districts.

The organizers - the National Workers' Command, backed by the Communist-led Popular Democratic Alliance - had called for go-slows, worker meetings, and boycotts of shops and civil administration offices in protest at the three-week-old state of siege.

But in the morning only a few absentees were reported in schools and the pattern was the same in Chile's three other main centres, Valparaíso, Vina del Mar and Concepción.

At least 10 bombs exploded late on Monday night, one of them near the presidential palace.

Explosions also rocked the Las Condes and Providencia sections of Santiago.

## Gulf refugees pour into Denmark

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Denmark has been plunged into crisis by an endless and increasing stream of refugees from Iran and Iraq.

According to the Danish Refugee Organization, more than 600 refugees, mainly Iranian and Iraqi, have sought political asylum in October and November, compared with a total of all nationalities last year of only 350.

This year, about 3,800 refugees have entered Denmark, nearly 2,000 of which are Iranians, mainly male deserters and conscientious objectors of

good education and background in the age group 18 to 30, escaping from the Gulf War. Hundreds of Iraqis have also joined the flood via Turkey and East Berlin to Denmark.

The steep increase is attributed by the authorities to the recent liberalization of Danish laws on aliens. Border police can no longer refuse entry and refugees are legally guaranteed a hearing for their applications for political asylum.

About 60 per cent of Iranians are granted asylum, although it often takes more than six

## Zaire arrest

Kinshasa (Ruter) - The

commander of Zaire's army detachment in the southern town of Moba, held by rebels for 48 hours earlier this month, is to face a court-martial for gross negligence.

## Shorter lunch

Peking (AP) - Say goodbye to

the two-hour lunch break, the Chinese Government told all Peking office workers yesterday in a directive to improve efficiency. The work day will end an hour earlier to make up for the loss of a lunchtime hour.

## Eraser danger

Brussels (Reuters) - The

European Bureau of Consumer Unions called for a ban by the European Community on fancy rubber erasers that look like confectionery and could endanger children.

## 1,000-year city

Moscow (Reuters) - Soviet

archaeologists have discovered the remains of 1,000-year-old silver mining city amid the lowering peaks of the Pamir mountains in central Asia. Tass reported.



## Corruption nettle remains to be grasped as Hawke heads for election victory

From Alan Hamilton, Melbourne

With only three days campaigning left before the Labour Government expects an easy return to power in the Australian general election the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, has largely succeeded in keeping the issue of crime and corruption in the government, judiciary and business out of the public debate.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister was busy denying that Australian journalists' telephones were tapped generally, although he still refused to confirm a specific allegation that conversations by Mr Brian Toohey, editor of the *National Times*, a respected political weekly, had been listened into.

Mr Andrew Peacock, leader of the Liberal-National opposition, has consciously spiked his guns since realizing that his now celebrated gibe across the floor of the Federal Parliament, that Mr Hawke was "a little crook", has probably cost him more votes than any utterance he has made since.

Even during Monday night's television debate between the two leaders, Mr Peacock refused to elaborate on his veiled references to the fact that there was something rotten in the state of New South Wales, where Mr Hawke's Australian Labour Party has its main power base.

But there is ample evidence to suggest that the problem will not go away, and that if Mr Hawke is returned on Saturday there will be some particularly virulent nettles awaiting his grasp.

The first is the case of a federal judge, Mr Justice Lionel Murphy. An all-party Senate committee reached an inconclusive result in its investigation into whether he had attempted to pervert the course of justice

in a conspiracy case involving a Sydney solicitor, Mr Morgan Ryan. The Federal Attorney General, Mr Ian Temby, has now indicated that a decision on whether to pursue the case of the judge will not be made "for some time".

Within the past few days, however, Judge John Ford, a New South Wales district judge, has been charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice in the same case.

Simultaneously, although not connected with the same case, Mr Rex Jackson, the former New South Wales Minister in Charge of Prisons, has appeared in court charged with conspiracy to release three prisoners well before their sentences were complete.

The Crown Prosecutor has alleged that Mr Jackson took substantial bribes in order to pay gambling debts. A solicitor and two businessmen are jointly charged with conspiring to pay the bribes to Mr Jackson.

There have been other, less successful, attempts to discredit Mr Hawke during the campaign, some of his opponents are still worrying away at the \$1,000 (£833) Mr Hawke had stolen from his room at the Boulevard Hotel in Sydney. No one has explained why he should not have been carrying such a sum of money, but there have been attempts to link it with Mr Hawke's admission that his daughter had been a heroin addict.

Last week, right-wing nationalist politicians in Queensland, their main power base, tried to claim that Mr Hawke and the Federal Treasurer, Mr Paul Keating, had been involved in a bizarre fiddle to sell Australian trawlers to Saudi Arabia using Government funds. The evidence was said to have come from papers found in the office of an estate agent in Cairns, Queensland, but no proof has been offered.

Mr Ian Sinclair, the National Party leader and a right-wing politician with a reputation for conducting head-kicking vendettas against political opponents, has been consistently asking in recent days why Mr Hawke's own past, particularly when he was leader of the ACTU, Australia's equivalent to the TUC, has not become an election issue.

Mr Sinclair's case has been somewhat diminished by his own starring role in an interview in *Playboy* magazine in which he discussed his former relationship with a Sydney businesswoman, Ms Glen-Marie North.

Kerry Packer, the Australian businessman, media tycoon, and promoter of world series cricket.

Mr Packer, codenamed "the Gannet" after an Australian lizard, has strenuously denied allegations by the now wound-up royal commission on organized crime headed by Mr Frank Costigan, a Melbourne QC, that he was involved in a string of extremely serious crimes.

Mr Packer has remained resolutely silent since issuing a strongly-worded denial several weeks ago, but the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions told *The Times* yesterday that it would be some time before his office and the Government decided whether to pursue the allegations or to drop them and finally clear Mr Packer's name.

The powers of the Costigan commission have been transmuted into a new and permanent National Crimes Commission, but opposition politicians say it has no teeth, and insufficient powers to pursue cases.

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## Stern Slav steers strict line

In the second of three articles on the developing style of Pope John Paul II, Peter Nichols reports from Rome.



THE PAPACY Part 2

An aspect of the Vatican, frequently overlooked, is that it is as much a weather-vane as the rock it claims to be. Individual popes and even the administrative machine itself reflect with a certain sensitivity the atmosphere of the times.

This Pope has radically changed Rome's approach to the Communist world. John XXIII, who called the Second Vatican Council and can be said to have refounded a modern papacy, lived at a time when hope in international affairs was allowable. He was briefly on the international scene with Kennedy and Khrushchev. He succeeded in persuading the Soviet authorities to send Russian Orthodox observers to the council. In its turn, the council was not allowed to become an anti-Communist platform. This was in keeping with John XXIII's character and conviction that the Church should show a "perfect neutrality" in worldly matters.

Paul VI, who followed him, applied diplomatic techniques to maintain and expand the opening which John had made. John Paul II is very aware of being the first Slav Pope in history and from the beginning of his pontificate has sought to demonstrate that European unity must include Eastern Europe.

Inevitably this has led him openly to challenge the Communist position and, if he has succeeded in giving fresh heart to the remaining Catholics in the East, he has at the same time totally changed the papacy's stance to that of an adversary.

The development could arguably be said to depend more on the international situation than on the Pope's Slav origin, just as the more hopeful times in the past could have been due to the diplomatic experiment in dialogue, begun in Khrushchev's day.

And that raises the question of whether John Paul II's handling of the Church's own internal affairs, with a hand so much heavier than that of his predecessors, is due to him or



Poles together: Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Poland's Primate, is embraced by the Pope on arrival at the Vatican for an audience yesterday.

to the more autocratic temper of the moment. Surely one part of what some people see to be a complete departure from the council is due more to his personality than to his own thinking.

The clearest recent clash between the council's teachings and the Pope's actions is in the response to his decision to allow the use under certain conditions of the Tridentine Mass which had been superseded by the new Mass devised to follow the council's requirements.

Many of the bishops had news of this important move from the newspapers. Official letters followed later. The news

came a matter of weeks before an important and long-planned meeting here of representatives of national episcopal conferences throughout much of the Catholic world to review the very problem of the application of the council's decree on the liturgy. In this case a public protest was made. Representatives of 32 national conferences of bishops from English-speaking countries expressed the "grave concern, regret and dismay" with which they received the news of the official letter.

The principal reason for this remarkable but little publicized protest was that "the concession appears to be a

movement away from the ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council". At the same time it "seems to demonstrate a lack of consideration for all those who, at great personal cost, and with great difficulty, did in fact accept the liturgical reform and who, in time, wholeheartedly embraced the desires of the council...". These bishops called on the Pope to issue a "strong statement reaffirming the work of all those engaged in liturgical renewal according to the principles of Vatican II". On this specific issue at least, the "orphans of the council found a voice to express their fears."

Tomorrow: Papal power

## Israeli jets attack Palestinian base in southern Lebanon

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

For the first time since the coalition government of Mr Shimon Peres took office in Israel, Israeli jets launched an air raid into Lebanon yesterday, with a brief but apparently effective strike against a Palestinian guerrilla base just behind the Syrian front lines in the Bekaa valley.

Up to six F15 and F16 fighter-bombers strafed and rocketed an area near the village of Qab Elias, where the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has a base. At least seven men, including five guerrillas and two civilians, were killed.

Eleven people, all reported to be guerrillas, were wounded in the raid, and a spokesman of the Syrian Arab Republic said that the Syrian anti-aircraft guns opened up on the Israeli jets, an event later confirmed by the Syrian Army command in Damascus, which claimed that its gunfire had "driven the planes southwards".

In fact, the Syrian artillery that regularly fires on the

Israeli is positioned in the Beit hills east of Beirut, above which Israeli jets always fly in a narrow corridor towards the Bekaa.

Lebanese authorities assume that the air raid was in reprisal for the two Katyusha rockets that landed inside Israel on Monday after being fired from Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon. The prevention of such attacks on Galilee was the stated reason for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, an assault that has now cost the lives of 603 Israelis.

In southern Lebanon yesterday, two Palestinians were murdered, allegedly for collaborating with Israeli occupation authorities, while on the coastal highway south of Beirut a French soldier of the United Nations force in Lebanon was wounded by unidentified gunmen.

He was travelling with four colleagues in a white UN jeep, which was flying the UN flag.

In west Beirut, meanwhile, Lebanese troops of the largely Shia Muslim Sixth Brigade continued to patrol the streets

on the second day of the Government's security plan, which is eventually intended to include southern Lebanon. While armed militiamen were in the area, unarmed militiamen, dressed in jeans and T-shirts, stood around their former checkpoints to watch the Army.

In private the gunmen of Beirut are expressing their own guarded confidence in the security plan. The Muslim militias believe that a Lebanese Army move south will help to bring about an Israeli withdrawal. But in east Beirut the Christian Phalangist militia are still expressing doubts.

Mr Massoud Ghawi, the official spokesman for the "Lebanese Forces" - the combination of Christian militiamen in the east - expressed reservations about the Sixth Brigade's capability of controlling west Beirut.

The real fear of the Christians, however, is that the security plan contains no political guarantees, and south of Beirut it is the Christians who need guarantees.

## ZANU men beaten to death

Harare (AFP) - Two leading officials of the ZANU Mwenje opposition party have been found beaten to death near the town of Masvingo, the Government confirmed here yesterday.

Shangwa Mangwenge, the party's national organizing secretary, and James Magura, the party's national youth advisor, were found with multiple injuries on November 15, according to a police report. They had gone to the area to seek the release of party members detained by police.

Johannesburg - A boy aged seven was killed and a youth aged 15 was wounded in shooting incidents on Monday in the African township of Sharpeville, 40 miles south of here, police said yesterday.

## Township death

Goerlev, Denmark (Reuters) - Hundreds of sea birds have been killed by a three-mile oil slick off the west coast of Zealand, the worst oil pollution in Danish waters for five years.

## Slick kills birds

Pyongyang is demanding the return of a defector, and yesterday hinted that the South should make some concession as a prelude to the talks taking place next year.

## Border shooting delays Korean economic talks

Friday's shooting on the border between the two Koreas has delayed the next contact between North and South. North Korea yesterday postponed talks on economic cooperation which were to have been held next week and proposed a date in the new year.

## North Korea's deputy Minister of Trade, Mr Li Sung Rok, used the North-South telephone hotline to tell his Southern counterpart, Mr Kim Ki Hwan, of the decision.

## Pyongyang is demanding the return of a defector, and yesterday hinted that the South should make some concession as a prelude to the talks taking place next year.

## Two journalists from another respected Nigerian newspaper, the *Guardian*, are serving a year's imprisonment imposed under the Draconian Decree No 4.

This makes it an offence to publish an untrue statement about an official or a statement that brings an official into contempt.

Since shortly after the coup, prominent press commentators, Mr Tai Solarin and Mr Haroun Adamu, have been in detention without charge.

The Government is also exerting pressure on newspapers by not allowing them foreign exchange to buy newsprint. Government-owned and government-supporting newspapers have generous allocations, but privately-owned newspapers are forced to produce smaller papers than normal and restrict circulation.

## Formula for contacts with East

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Two former prime ministers, Mr Edward Heath and Mr James Callaghan, yesterday backed a new international plan for a more constructive, lasting relationship between East and West.

Flanked by Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the Social Democratic Party, Mr Elliot Richardson, a former United States defence secretary, and the historian Lord Bullock, they appeared as cosignatories of an Aspen Institute Group statement, copies of which have been sent to President Reagan, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Soviet ambassadors in London and Washington.

One of its proposals is for a strategic panel of top Soviet and American delegates to oversee arms control.

Another suggestion is for a series of crisis control centres to provide instant communication between the nuclear powers in order to forestall nuclear war.

Other policies endorsed by the study include a declaration on the "no early use" of nuclear weapons, multilateral arms control, an early start to talks to prevent Star Wars and the improvement of NATO's conventional forces to raise the nuclear threshold.

But as Mr Callaghan pointed out in chairing yesterday's press conference, the purpose of the Aspen report is to seek a more stable relationship with the Russians across the entire spectrum of political, economic, commercial and educational fields.

Its timing was significant too, he said, coming as it did just before the Geneva meeting between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to initiate a new era in arms control.

## Bonn refuses to accept sea resources treaty

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

After weeks of argument, the Bonn Cabinet yesterday decided not to sign the Law of the Sea Convention because it is seen as being against West German economic interests. The West German government said it would not oppose approval of the convention by the European Community.

West Germany joins Britain and the United States in opposing the contentious international treaty, which is intended to regulate exploitation of the sea's resources and seabed mining. Six community countries have signed, and a total of 138 states have given their approval, many more than

the 60 needed for ratification next month.

The issue became a point of conflict between Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who was in favour of signing, and his Cabinet colleagues.

The three coalition parties argued long over the matter, with the chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, being pressed by Christian Democrats to take a hard line against curbs on seabed mining and the compulsory sharing of seabed technology with Third World countries. Herr Genscher argued that only after signing would Bonn be in a position to improve the convention terms.

More than 8,000 people sang "Happy Birthday" and carried food parcels for the poor and for political prisoners to a rally yesterday marking what would have been the fifty-second birthday of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader killed 15 months ago.

Mrs Corazon Aquino, widow of the former senator, said opposition unity was more crucial than ever before, because of reports that the health of President Marcos was failing.

A single and acceptable opposition candidate was needed to stand for election against Mr Marcos or whoever the ruling party chose, Mrs Aquino told the crowd.

She told reporters that Mr Marcos, aged 67, may not live to fulfil his pledge to run for another six-year term in presidential elections in 1987. Mr Marcos, who has not been seen in public for 13 days, was rumoured to have undergone a kidney or heart operation. But his physician said the President was being treated for "early signs" of influenza.

Aquino was commonly regarded as the man most likely to succeed Mr Marcos before he was assassinated in August last year moments after he arrived home to head the opposition campaign in parliamentary elections.

He had spent three years in self-imposed exile

## Quebec party loses again

From John Best, Ottawa

The beleaguered Parti Québécois Government of Quebec has lost another by-election, its twenty-second successive defeat since it first won power eight years ago.

Monday's convincing victory of the Liberal candidate, Mr Jean-François Viau, over Mr André Bouchette was the Montreal riding of St Jacques.

Five ministers have resigned in the past week over a position taken by Mr René Lévesque, Quebec's Premier, that his party should shelve the independence issue in the provincial election expected late next year.

The Liberals retained St Jacques with 48 per cent of the vote against 41 per cent for the ruling party.

## Uruguay's President-elect

Observers agree that a "government of national unity", at least some kind of workable coalition in Parliament, will be crucial if the obstacles the new Government will face are to be surmounted.

Much will depend on the attitude of the Blanco Party, and that in turn will depend on its imprisoned leader, Señor Wilson Ferreira Aldunate. The Supreme Court was scheduled to review the charges against him, and diplomatic sources speculated that he could be released within a few days.

The Blancos and the left-wing Frente Amplio are likely to put pressure on the Colorado administration to prosecute military officers responsible for human rights violations.

Sources close to the military say that political persecution could provoke a violent reaction from "certain sectors" of the armed forces.

With almost 20 per cent of the vote, the Frente Amplio has established itself as a force to be reckoned with in Uruguayan politics. Señor Sanguinetti will have to try to include some of its leaders in his Government.

But the most serious problem may be the economy. A four-year-old recession has crippled Uruguayan industry and reduced real wages to 50 per cent of their 1973 level. Unemployment stands at 15 per cent, and the new Government will probably face labour unrest.

## Difficult transition period will test political skills

From Douglas Tweedale, Montevideo

Señor Julio María Sanguinetti, whose centre-right Colorado Party comfortably won Sunday's election in Uruguay, is regarded by Western diplomats and wide cross-section of local observers as the man best qualified to lead the country through the difficult period of economic crisis and political turmoil which lies ahead.

A 48-year-old lawyer who is an avid football fan and an art collector, Señor Sanguinetti will have his considerable political skills tested during the transition from military to civilian rule. Campaigning under the slogan "A Change in Peace", Señor Sanguinetti persuaded voters to accept his view that it will take responsible leadership to consolidate the fledgling democracy that is to be inaugurated, next March.

Although Señor Sanguinetti won a convincing personal victory, he will have to face a parliament divided into at least three factions. And while nearly 40 per cent of voters supported the Colorado Party's moderate approach, a significant number cast their ballots for the Blanco Party candidate, Señor Alberto Zumaran, or the third-placed Frente Amplio (Broad Front) representative, Dr Juan José Crotogini. Both the Blancos and the Frente Amplio advocated more confrontational attitudes to the departing military than did Señor Sanguinetti.

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## Hijackers granted asylum in Ethiopia

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Dissident Somalis, who hijacked a Somali Airlines Boeing 707 soon after it left Mogadishu last Saturday on a flight to Jeddah, gave themselves up at Addis Ababa airport yesterday and accepted an offer of political asylum in Ethiopia.

They had earlier threatened to blow up the aircraft, with more than 100 passengers still on board, if the Somali Government did not pardon seven young Somalis awaiting execution for consorting with the underground Somali National Movement, and free 13 political detainees, including several former ministers.

The three Somali Army officers, led by Captain Adan Durham, who staged the hijack had guns and explosives on the plane. They were joined by two other Somalis who were among the passengers, but it was not clear whether those two knew of the hijack plan before it took effect.

Somalia had refused to consider the demands of the hijackers, and said it would hold Ethiopia responsible for any harm done to the hostages of the plane. It condemned the demands of the hijackers as blackmail.

However, intense political consultations, with the Italian Government providing a link between Addis Ababa and Mogadishu, produced a better atmosphere after the hijackers had postponed their deadlines several times. There are no diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Somalia, which are intensely hostile to each other.

The key point which resolved the crisis was apparently a Somali undertaking not to execute the seven youths. Assurances to that effect were given to the Italian Ambassador in Mogadishu, who relayed them to Addis Ababa.

Women and children were allowed to leave the aircraft soon after it landed at Addis Ababa on Saturday. The pilot and copilot, and a security guard who was wounded when the hijack took place, were also allowed to leave.

But the remaining 103 passengers, including two Italians and an African, were held in considerable discomfort, although food, water and medicines were supplied by the Ethiopian authorities.

Diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Somalia were broken off in 1977 when Somali troops moved into the Ogaden region of Ethiopia in support of ethnic Somalis there who were demanding secession to Somalia.

Somalia withdrew its forces in 1978, after suffering a heavy defeat at the hands of Ethiopian troops backed by Cuban forces.

Fighting on the border broke out again last year after dissident Somali groups, backed by Ethiopian troops, seized two border areas.

## Border shooting delays Korean economic talks

From David Watts, Tokyo

Friday's shooting on the border between the two Koreas has delayed the next contact between North and South. North Korea yesterday postponed talks on economic cooperation which were to have been held next week and proposed a date in the new year.

North Korea's deputy Minister of Trade, Mr Li Sung Rok, used the North-South telephone hotline to tell his Southern counterpart, Mr Kim Ki Hwan, of the decision.

Pyongyang is demanding the return of a defector, and yesterday hinted that the South should make some concession as a prelude to the talks taking place next year.

## Nigerian editor detained for criticizing minister

By Kenneth Mackenzie

The editor of a leading Nigerian newspaper, the *National Concord*, has been held in detention for the past 13 days because of an article criticizing the Ministry of Information.

This is the latest of several incidents showing growing tension between the press and the government of General Muhammadu Buhari, which seized power on December 31.

The editor, Mr Duro Odule, in a personal column published on November 9, criticized the Minister of Information, Group Captain Eneke Omeruah, because he had alleged that the whole Nigerian press had a "bring-down-the-government syndrome".

In a letter to *Concord*, the Information Ministry objects to the tone of the editor's comments, saying they were "lacking refinement". The article was said to be too personal, the minister's name being mentioned 19 times.

The phrase that the minister had a "neurotic obsession with his anti-press posture" caused offence.



## THE ARTS

Television  
Man's  
pet  
subject

Do owners grow to resemble their pets, or pets their owners - or do they meet in some amorphous kingdom, a fifth dimension of amity known only to those who live with animals? This was one of the few questions not answered by *Good Companions* (Thames), which provided an otherwise exhaustive account of those tame animals which offer comfort, relaxation, amusement or companionship.

The last is perhaps the strongest, since pets often become the assurers of human loneliness - to quote from Thomas Haynes Bayly: "Something to love, oh, something to love." And I suspect that they offer, too, an idealized version of qualities, like loyalty, and emotions, like affection, which seem so difficult or complicated in the human world - when, that is, they are present at all.

But it was suggested that pets represent even more than this, since they have become the image of a symbolic relationship in which mammal (human) reaches out to mammal across the great divide which normally separates us from the natural world. Certainly there seems to be an elective affinity between certain humans and animals, although Jilly Cooper was perhaps going a little far when she explained that, "Men who don't like animals aren't very good in bed." Better this, though, than that pets should be treated as aspects of human greed - there is nothing worse than a dog, for example, being paraded as a "status symbol".

This was a comprehensive if slightly conventional programme, which told you all you needed to know - and more - about the local dog or cat. But perhaps the best definition of the subject came from a vet who described pets as "not quite animal and not quite human" - an ostensibly uncomfortable state, but one which has obviously been of great benefit to both parties.

Peter Ackroyd

After auditioning 3,000 hopefuls, 17 lead performers were chosen by Sir Richard Attenborough for the film  
of *A Chorus Line*, now being shot on Broadway, where it all began. Report by Sheridan Morley

## An innocent let loose on Broadway



Sir Richard Attenborough: "When I'm demonstrating a scene... the kindest thing the unit does is not to howl with laughter"

It will be exactly ten years next May since *A Chorus Line* opened at the Public Theatre in New York; in the meantime it has of course become the longest-running Broadway musical, but it is now establishing another and even more remarkable record. The show is in fact simultaneously at two New York theatres only a few hundred yards apart while the stage version continues at the Shubert, still playing some nights to standing room only.

Sir Richard Attenborough has moved his cameras into the Mark Hellinger to make the movie, one which should be on general release a year from now and will be at a cinema only a block or so away from where the show will by then be well into its eleventh year.

But, though the screen rights were in fact sold soon after the Broadway opening, it has taken some years and something approaching thirty million dollars to get the movie into production. Originally the choreographer-director Michael Bennett was himself to turn his show into a film - at least until he went out to Hollywood and so disliked what he found there that he returned sharply to Broadway vowing to have nothing to do with a studio. Then, between 1975 and 1983, other and more experienced film directors such as Mike Nichols and Sidney Lumet considered ways that the show could be "opened up" for the screen, until eventually it was decided that *Chorus Line* should be filmed in the place where it was set and about which it was written - a Broadway theatre.

At that point they approached Attenborough, hot from the *Gandhi* Oscars, a man who had of course started out in the theatre and whose first film as director had been the musical *Oh! What a Lovely War!* As he sat in the stalls of the Mark Hellinger this month watching the dancers line up for yet another of the auditions that are at the heart of *Chorus Line*, I asked him if he had any doubts about whether so quintessentially theatrical a subject could be made to work on film.

"Yes, of course there are doubts, especially when the show is playing just across the block and we're tampering with something which has been

proving its worth and its integrity over a decade. But that very fact determined us to keep it almost totally within the walls of a theatre: we use a few flashbacks but even in those the sound that you hear is the sound of the theatre as the auditions are going on. To erode that pressure-cooker feeling would have been deadly; the atmosphere and the continuing dynamic of people under pressure, trying to get a job in a show, has to be maintained. The idea of going out into open fields in Texas just because one of the kids in the show had been a drum major would have lost us all the excitement of what happens actually in the theatre during these two hours.

"Then people said to me, okay, if you're not going to broaden it, what can the cinema do for *Chorus Line*?" The answer is of course the close-up: sitting way back in the stalls you never get to see the look in these kids' eyes as they succeed or fail.

We can get close, and the kids don't have to do imitations of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to be heard at the back of the gallery. We can show the beads of sweat, the trembling lips, the fear as well as the joy of getting the job. That's what *Chorus Line* is about, in the end: it's about unemployment. Doesn't matter that they happen to be dancers, they could be experts trying to survive in any profession during a recession."

But this, surely, is a choreographer's rather than a director's film? "Yes, for the first twelve minutes that's true. Then we go into the basic storyline, however, and that's where my work starts and goes through right to the finale. Out of two hours, less than a quarter is actual dancing; the rest is story after story about the dancers."

For Attenborough, this is a welcome return to the showbusiness he has always loved: "If you do a picture about *Gandhi*, or the one I'm doing next based

on the Donald Woods book about Steve Biko, it's not enough just to make a good film. You have a massive political and journalistic responsibility, as well as the social awareness that, if *Gandhi* had been a disaster, nobody would have bothered to look at that subject again for maybe thirty years in the cinema. So you carry a terrible other burden, the burden of getting it right historically as well as artistically. In between those two major projects, the joy of getting back to something like this, which is really just about 17 divine kids, all of whom I'd like to adopt, is tremendous."

So how did he set about finding the right 17, few of whom are as yet exactly familiar, though one happens to be the daughter of Gwen Verdon and Bob Fosse while the star is Kirk Douglas's son, Michael?

"We first of all auditioned three thousand dancers of all

kinds, from jazz to ballet; then we took the best seven hundred of those, sent them to classes and re-auditioned them in groups of 12 once they'd learnt the routines. Then we film-tested 60 and out of those we got our 17, three of whom had played the show either on Broadway or on the road. But we could never have gone back to the original cast, most of whom now are well into their thirties. We were looking for teenagers, and we found one who runs a little dance academy in San Francisco and had never seen a camera in her life."

There are also two new Marvin Hamlisch numbers, and of course the screenplay reflects the Eighties rather than the Seventies, with unemployment now very much more of a fear than it was when the show first opened. I've never worked on Broadway, and I didn't know much about the dance world, although in *Lovely War* we also of course had a small group of

players, the Smith family, who went right through the film as a team rather like this one. But one of my very first jobs was in the back row of a musical at the Arts in the 1940s and I've always loved them: there's an intensity and a joy that you simply don't find anywhere else. You know what a ham I am: like all actors I'm convinced that when I'm demonstrating a scene I'm Baryshnikov, and, when this short, fat, balding sixty-year-old twit floats across the stage, the kindest thing the unit does is not to howl with laughter. But it's precisely because I'm such an outsider that I can see it clearly: when Len Deighton was chosen as a director for *Lovely War* he said he wanted either somebody who knew everything about musicals or somebody who knew nothing, and in the end he chose me because I knew nothing. There's a lot to be said for innocence, even on Broadway."

## Concerts

Philharmonia/  
Sinopoli  
Festival Hall

Some of Giuseppe Sinopoli's concerts with the Philharmonia have made one wonder why he should have programmed music to which he seemed so little suited, but Monday evening was different. This was a fraught, uncomfortable and even at times deliberately unlovely performance of Mahler's Second Symphony, but it was cogently presented and magnificently played. Possibly Mr. Sinopoli's career as a composer, or ex-composer, had something to do with it, since Mahler seems to have had something special to say to all succeeding creator-conductors, from Bernstein to Boulez, and from Webern to Klemperer. But though it may be a little early to be putting Mr. Sinopoli in that company, there can be no doubt of his conviction in putting forward a view of the "Resurrection" Symphony that was quite simply, Resurrectionist.

In retrospect, this was irritated from the first. What spoke loudest in the opening movement were the passages where the music suddenly finds itself without any avenues of escape: the moments where the song of the strings is killed by march rhythm, and most of all, of course, the repeated dissonances at the climax, here brutally hammered. By taking Mahler's markings to the edge of the absurd exaggeration, Mr. Sinopoli gave a strong profile to everything that is barbaric and nihilistic in this movement, and also in the third, whose calm flow was the thinnest veneer.

It was still a surprise that the second movement should have been so much more grey than graceful, and an even greater surprise when the alto sang a utterly drained of warmth. Strings and brass played with the minimum of vibrato and the maximum of detachment between notes, offering not warm, enfolding support to the soloist but rather a lunar landscape across which she was obliged to tread. This was a bit hard on Brigitte Fassbender, who could not sound radiant without ruining the effect, but who had this marvelous music in front of her. The sense of straining after numbness, though, was not inappropriate.

Lucia Popp did not have to make so many concessions in the finale, and soared gloriously, now joined by a Miss Fassbender released from captivity. There was here no conflict with Mr. Sinopoli's unshakably pessimistic approach, because he showed no sign whatsoever of being on the way towards some vision of heaven. The Philharmonia Chorus were kept quiet, their words often barely more than a hum, until this meandering finale just happened upon golden E flat major. Then there was noise and splendour indeed, but Mr. Sinopoli had made sure we knew it was only an artificial paradise.

Paul Griffiths

Songmakers'  
Almanac  
Wigmore Hall

"Such the tenor man told When he had grown old"; and such, in the words of Hardy, Auden, Michelangelo, and the notes of Purcell, Britten, Schubert, was the theme of homage paid on Monday night by the Songmakers' Almanac to Sir Peter Pears.

The nature of Sir Peter's artistry has, of course, directly, indirectly and profoundly nurtured the musico-literary work of the Almanac themselves. Conventions and resonances proliferated as the history of song and its performance in England was revealed in the biographical thread running through the programme. In a reference to John Ireland, for instance, and in Richard Jackson's fine performance of his "My true love hath my heart", we were reminded of the state of English song as Britten found it. Auden, said Sir Peter (now on the platform, chatting to Graham Johnson), opened the doors for Britten; and we heard "Now the Great Bear and Pleiades" from Peter Grimes, sung with extraordinary expressive breadth by Anthony Rolfe Johnson.

It was Mr. Rolfe Johnson, perhaps more than anyone, who focused attention on the qualities at the heart of Britten's work as creator and Pears's attributes as recreator: that of the regeneration of word in music. His rare rendering of Britten's realization of "Tom Bowling", no less than his part, with Sarah Walker, in Canticle II, "Abraham and Isaac", proved the strength and vitality of the continuation of the line.

After the song years, the operas, the travel, came the tricky part of the evening. It was time for the overt public articulation and reception of heartfelt gratitude, and for envoi. Graham Johnson lifted things just clear of embarrassment - but enough had been said in the music alone. After the Phaedrus monologue from *Death in Venice* ("the work nearest to me and which brings me nearest to Ben"), Sir Peter recited over Graham Johnson's piano accompaniment the text of Schubert's "Farewell to the world".

Hilary Finch

Alison Moyet  
Dominion

When the clamour surrounding 1984's big brothers of pop has died down and the audits are taken, the smart money suggests that two of the year's best-selling discs will be by Sade and Alison Moyet, artists who have concentrated on vocal entertainment rather than image manipulation.

Ms Moyet - Alf to her friends

- has enjoyed a good year. Since parting amicably from Vince Clarke and their band Yazoo, her solo career has spawned two hits and a sell-out tour, culminating in three nights at the Dominion. It is easy to find reasons for Alf's popularity. Her unpretentious personality is allied to a vocal prowess which is enhanced by her considerable soulful range. Yet despite the rapport she finds with her fans the current show veers towards safety when it should be inspired.

The fault may lie in the choice of band, one drawn from the traditional R & B or disco lines of four piece plus horns and backing singers trio. Such a set up did wonders for the Eurythmics' live set and ought to have benefited Alf's larger-than-life presence.

But to say these musicians lacked flair would be an understatement; they dragged themselves along with the elegance of a session group playing by rote, forgetting niceties of dynamics and tension. When Alf assumed a solo spotlight for Billie Holiday's emotionally charged "That Old Devil Called Love" their shortcomings were thrown into perspective. By contrast the hits, "Love Resurrection" and

"All Cried Out" were rhythmically staid. The only major excitement occurred when the singer injected some James Brown funk into "Situation" and offered a sparkling version of Marvin Gaye's "Hitch Hike".

Encores of Yazoo's excellent "Only You" and "Don't Go" emphasized a yearning for their original settings; Paul Ellis, the keyboards player, tried gamely but was no match for Vince Clarke's understanding of the songs' nuances. It may seem churlish to expect an artist to aspire to something now past, but I left feeling strangely dissatisfied and wondering what it is all about, Alf?

Max Bell

Extremities  
Duchess

The opening of William Mastrosimone's play is pure nightmare. Early morning in a New Jersey farmhouse. A girl puts down her coffee to go out and deal with a wasp. A man walks in, knowing she is alone, and slams her into submission on the floor: at which point she grabs the wasp spray and fires into his eyes.

Having aroused your maximum distaste for the rapist, the play then goes into reverse and tests your sympathy for the victim who chains him up in the fireplace, beats him, tortures him with lighted matches and douses him with petrol, threatening to burn him alive and bury him in the garden. When her two friends return from work, she has a cast-iron case for murder. As there is no mark on her body, a court may acquit her attacker, even if he is jailed, she will always go in dread of his revenge.

The logic is unanswerable, but we are still less than half way through, and instead of

letting his heroine get on with the job, Mr. Mastrosimone allows the party to sit around discussing what to do next. Once the frenzied energy subsides into schematized debate between the homicidal Marjorie and her companions - one a welfare-worker, the other a former rape victim - the play also sits down and leaves you feeling that you, too, have just been violated.

Nothing is easier than to raise an audience's heartbeat with the sight of brutality, particularly if it satisfies the appetite for revenge. Mr. Mastrosimone is well up to performing that simple task. But the real ugliness of the piece begins after the opening brutalities are over, when Mr. Mastrosimone expects you to pay attention to chunks of legal and humanitarian argument while the battered rapist lies moaning in the fireplace slowly going blind.

Whenever he does speak, it is to lie, threaten, or otherwise inject the audience with a new shot of their original hatred. This might work if his captors were animated by any passion or sense of purposeful direction. But all they can do is check the implacable Marjorie with feeble, time-wasting protests which, in the circumstances, betray an astounding authorial insensitivity. Not only do all the arguments nose-dive but Mr. Mastrosimone attempts a little light satire on the ineffectuality of social workers and the habit of girls to gossip in parking lots.

As Helen Mirren plays her, moodily nursing a claw hammer as she sits guard over her prey, bullying her friends into submission and cheerfully ramming a hunting knife into her (now sightless) enemy's genitals in a replay of the opening rape dialogue, Marjorie has landed a role she has been longing to play all her life. Kevin McNally dispatches the rapist with athletic sadism and gibbering exclamations of Roman Catholic terror, to which Robert Allan Ackerman's production adds an amplified wasp buzz.

Irving Wardle

Orphée  
Upstream

A bizarre lunch party: a fashionable young woman, her poet husband who sits in front of her because he is not allowed to look at her (all right, that gives the angel away), and their guardian angel courteously sipping his red wine in the guise of a glazier who comes daily to mend their broken windows. Jean Cocteau's play on the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice wears its irreverence like a green carnation.

The Floorboards Theatre Company play *Orphée* with a grave delicacy which is impressive and, even if it stifles the knowing or silly laughter Cocteau meant to raise, also kills the giggles he did not want. As a brief prelude, members of the company (mostly the small parts) recite, not always very convincingly, a devised combination of biographical material, tackle extracts and pieces from the *Plain-Chant* poems inspired by Cocteau's relationship with Raymond Radiguet, who died soon afterwards. This love poetry, such an odd mixture of graphic tenderness and self-conscious imagery, prefigures *Orphée*'s obsession with death, the Muses, the poet's severed head, even the horse.

But, even by such association, the play does not generate enough poetic power to make up for its impression of datedness and rootlessness, once severed from its original context. Carl Wildman's translation is neat and graceful, and particularly Chris Thomas (*Orphée*) and Ben Bazell (the angel) have the soft poetic touch that stills mockery for the moment. And Sally Mortmore, correctly attired in a vivid pink evening gown, unnervingly impersonates a Death who arrives unsuspected and dons rubber gloves to cut the thread of life without emotion.

Anthony Masters

RE-CYCLED LOVERS-  
BETTER THAN NEW?

Lovers often seem nicer people when they become ex-lovers. The relaxation of high-octane emotions can result in a warm friendship. Sometimes! Read "Ex-rated Lovers" in December's *Cosmo*. It could be worth going through it all.

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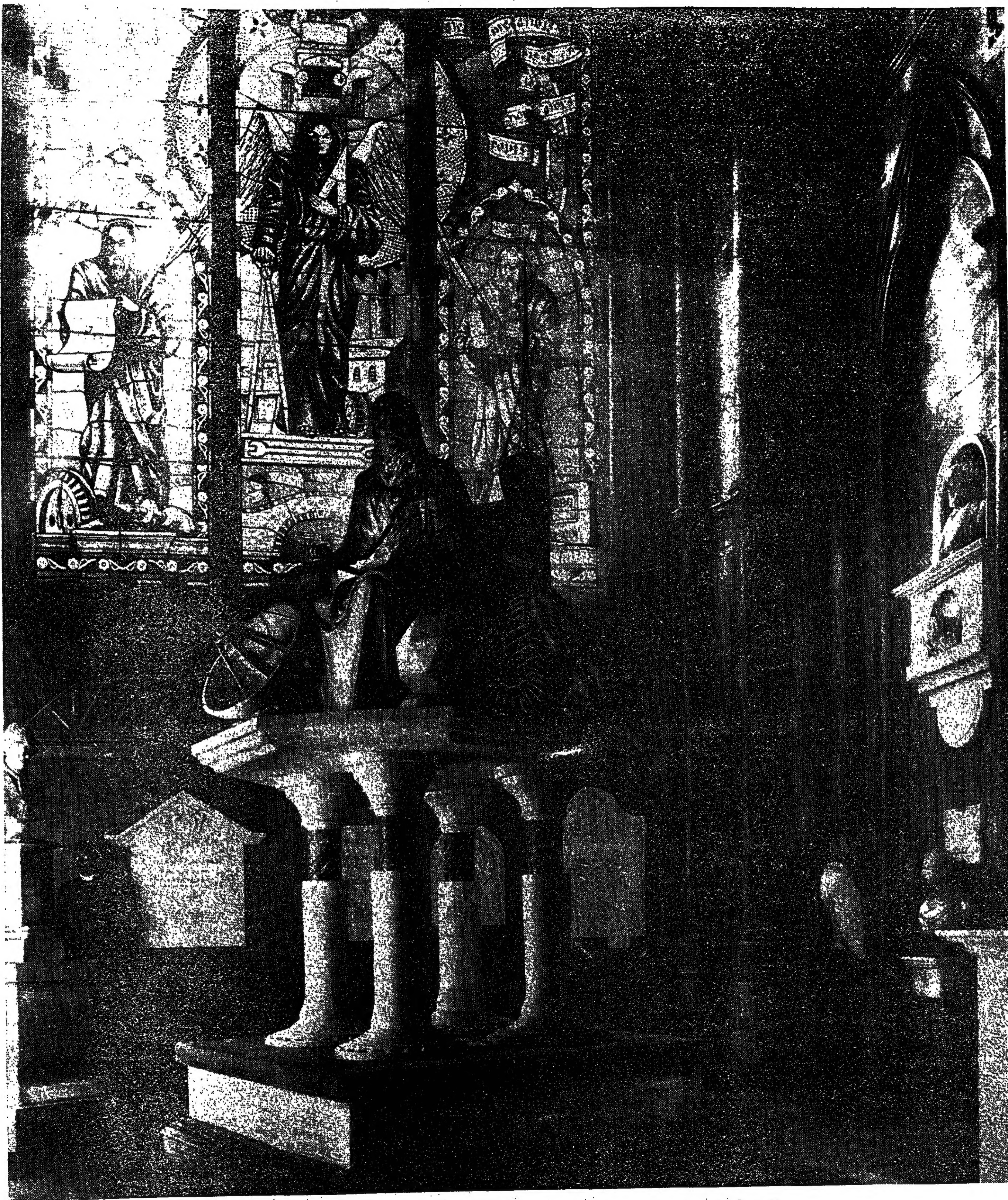
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Hilary Finch





## Why isn't there an Engineers' Corner in Westminster Abbey?

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RIGHTING TO HELP BRITAIN MAKE IT



## SPECTRUM

Church leaders in Britain are criticizing the government, but in South Africa they're challenging the law

## Power politics from the pulpit

The current debate in Britain about how deeply the Church should become embroiled in politics - fuelled by the speeches of the Bishop of Durham - has been heard in South Africa for many years. Bishop Desmond Tutu's appointment as the first black

Bishop of Johannesburg and his nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize which he will receive in Oslo on December 10 has focussed attention on the role of the churches there. MICHAEL HORNSBY reports from Johannesburg

At almost any point on the spectrum of the gradually sharpening struggle between Black nationalists and White nationalists in South Africa, from Bishop Desmond Tutu's "liberation theology" on the Black left to the dyed-in-the-wool apartheid of Dr Andries Treurnicht on the White right, a man of the cloth is as likely as not to be found at the heart of the fray, loudly claiming biblical sanction for his cause.

In October, a few days after learning that he had been awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, Bishop Tutu attended a service of thanksgiving at his local Anglican Church in Soweto, the sprawling African township outside Johannesburg. In a short address, he touched one of the most resonant chords of Black preaching - the deliverance of the Jews.

"We know that you are the God of Exodus. We know you are the God of freedom. We know that you will lead us out of oppression and injustice. We know that you will lead us out of our Egypt and into the promised land of your freedom," he cried, and the small stone church vibrated with the ecstatic "Amen"s of his colourfully-garbed congregation.

For the last three centuries, the same biblical imagery has sustained the Afrikaner Whites from whose rule Bishop Tutu and other Blacks are asking to be freed. For the one, the history of the Jews is a promise that God is on the side of the oppressed, however unjust present circumstances may seem, and for the other, an equally certain assurance that the folk (people) will survive to fulfil their God-ordained mission.

When Mr P. W. Botha, the State president, and other ministers in the almost exclusively Afrikaner Government complain, as they regularly do, that Bishop Tutu and other turbulent priests are "meddling in politics", they are denying, or perhaps conveniently overlooking, much of their own history, and a tradition of intimate Church-State relations going back to the days of the early Boer Republics.

The first Dutch settlers to arrive at the Cape in the mid-17th century, came from a Holland that had been nourished on the stern doctrines of John Calvin, who taught his followers that they were a chosen people.

In 1857, the Cape Synod of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK), as the Dutch Reformed Church here is known, took a fateful step, deciding that, though neither desirable nor scriptural, services for Whites and Blacks should be held in "separate buildings" because of the "weakness of some" - that is, those Whites who would not take Communion with Blacks.

Segregated congregations became the rule, leading to separate "daugh-

ter" churches of the NGK: the Sendingkerk (Mission Church) for mixed-race Coloureds, founded in 1881; the NGK in Afrika, for Africans; and the Indian Reformed Church.

When the National Party came to power in 1948 on a wave of Afrikaner nationalism, led by a former NGK Dominee (Minister), Dr D F Malan, the Church thus already provided the model and rationale for apartheid.

Today, the Dutch Reformed family of churches commands the allegiance of nearly 50 per cent of the country's 4,600,000 Whites. Nearly two million Africans and Coloureds also share their faith (see table).

Although the social influence of the NGK has weakened over the last 30 years, as more and more Afrikaners have moved from the conservative countryside to the towns, it remains strong. Cinemas are still closed on Sundays, though films with explicit sex scenes are now generally only lightly censored. Magazines like *Playboy* and *Penthouse*, however, are banned. Gambling is illegal, and it is only in the last few years that sports events have been permitted on the Sabbath.

Politically, the monolithic identity of the NGK with the ruling National Party, which prevailed for three decades after 1948, was deeply fissured by the breakaway in early 1982 of a group of government MPs under Dr Treurnicht, a Cabinet Minister and, like Dr Malan, a former Dominee, to form the extreme right-wing Conservative Party, which is bitterly opposed to the extension of the franchise (albeit on a segregated basis) to the Indian and coloured minorities under the new constitution introduced this year. Many NGK clerics support the new party.

On the left, the NGK has always had its courageous rebels, like Dr Beyers Naude, who emerged last September from seven years as a "banned" person. Apart from being severely restricted in his movement, he could not be quoted or take part in any political or social activity.

He and some 30 other White priests have left the NGK and joined its African daughter-church, becoming outcasts in their own communities. The brave defiance of lone whites, however, has had much less impact on the NGK than the revolt within its Coloured daughter, the Sendingkerk. This Church's Assessor, its second highest official, is the youthful Dr Allan Boesak, now the best known Black clergyman after Bishop Tutu.

In August 1982, at a meeting in Ottawa, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, which embraces some 70 million Protestants of Presbyterian and Congregational Churches around the world, chose



Preachers of politics: (top) Bishop Tutu; (left) white woman blessed by a black priest; (right) Dr Boesak; (above) Dr Naude

him as its president, and also suspended the membership of the NGK and the smaller NKK until such time as they renounce apartheid. In September of that year, Dr Boesak was instrumental in getting the Sendingkerk's synod to pronounce apartheid a heresy.

These developments were probably behind the decision of the Western Cape Synod of the NGK in October of last year to reject apartheid "if in practice it means discrimination", to open church services in its region to all races, and to declare laws banning marriage and sex across the colour line incompatible with Christian ethics.

All the daughter churches, have joined the multi-racial South African Council of Churches (SACC), which represents some 12 million people, 85 per cent of them black, in 18 denominations.

Under its general-secretary of the last six years, Bishop Tutu, who will give up the job when he becomes the first African Bishop of Johannesburg in January, the SACC has not only vigorously opposed apartheid but campaigned in support of foreign disinvestment and conscientious objection to military service.

The Roman Catholic, Methodist and Anglican Churches are the biggest groups in the SACC. The Roman Catholics, who had some difficulty establishing themselves in South



Taking the plunge: beach baptisms

Africa and were for a long time politically cautious, took the lead in the 1970s in opening church schools to all races and now have the biggest African following. The Catholic Archbishop of Durban, the most Revd Denis Hurley, faces trial next February for accusing the Army and Police of atrocities in Namibia.

Clergymen, both Black and White, have supported the recent troubles in Sharpeville and other townships along the River Vaal. Soon after the first outbreak of violence on September 3 they formed a "solidarity committee" to try to fill the vacuum left by the popular rejection of government-sponsored town councils. Several are now in jail for their pains, along with more than 200 trade unionists, teachers, students and others.

Millions of Blacks belong to some 3,700 independent African faiths, which mix modern Christian revivalism with traditional African ancestor worship, and have severed links with the missionary European churches.

Some of these sects promise justice only in the afterlife. Thus followers of the Nazarene Church in Natal worship a Black Messiah who guards the gates of Heaven and turns away Whites on the grounds that they "cannot rule twice".

For vast numbers of Blacks and Whites, religion is an inseparable part of their lives. "One of the basic traditions of Calvinism is the lordship of Jesus Christ: this means that there is no area of life where Christians do not have a duty to establish His Lordship and to see that the demands of the Kingdom of Heaven are met," Dr Boesak says in response to the charge that he is a "political priest". No White "Dominee" would disagree with a syllable of that statement. When it comes to interpreting God's purpose, however, the disagreement is still profound.

moreover... Miles Kingston

## The jokers in my pack of postcards

A journalist who expresses doubt is like a girl who drops a glove; in both cases, gallant members of the public rush forward to help. Recently I asked where all the good postcards were, and also what the derivation of "gricer" was. Quantities of noble readers have rushed forward and I am now a wiser man.

Postcards, first, I have received further shipments of these desirable objects, notably from Michael de la Casca who, if I understand him rightly, runs three lines of postcards. Namely Real London, Real Ireland and Real Britain. All are excellent. I like the barn door in West Cork, the fish shop in Bideford, the six phone boxes in London. I was taken aback by the shot of the Portobello Road stallholder, as I had bought some green peppers from the very same man the day before.

I like the quirky postcards produced by George Blair for Mind's Eye, as this man has a sense of humour. His picture of Nelson's Column has no Nelson on top, only a huge pigeon. His picture of a London phone-box has a guard standing on duty outside it. And his picture of an astronaut on the moon shows him coming face to face with a Job Centre. Clever stuff with a pair of scissors, there.

I also like the black and white, more arty postcards by Francis Glibbery. His portrait of all the gays outside the Coleherne pub in Earls Court would look wonderful blown up, while his picture of two glam girls on Earls Court tube station in front of a big glamour fashion poster says all there is to say about glam girls and glamour fashion posters. Mr Glibbery, by the way, says he sells his cards for 10p to retailers who then reprice them at 30p or more. Good old capitalism.

But the letter which first reminded me that there is more, or rather less, to postcards than quality came from Martin Karmel, a member of the Boring Postcard Club. He and his friends send each other cards from all over the world, trying to outdo each other. It all started, he says, with a view of "The Crochet Pavilion, Tring". Excellent! Other outstandingly boring cards have been "The Convalescent Home, Otley, near York", "The Tennis Courts at Cromer" and "A General View of Old Sodbury".

This had me scrabbling in my drawer of postcards for a series of Chinese Communist cards I once bought, including "A Bend in the Red Canal", but before I

could find them I received another letter, from Ben Phillips, who runs the Naff Postcard of the Year Contest with his friends.

Now, naff is a word we hear a lot these days but which has seldom to my satisfaction been defined, hovering as it does between kitsch and grotty. But to help me Mr Phillips had enclosed the top three entries of this year both in the domestic and international classes. The three domestic high-flyers were of Southend, Hindhead and Loch Ness, and my heart went out immediately to the black and white picture of Becontree Hill Road, Hindhead, as it contained less of interest in it than any postcard I have ever seen.

There was a lamp post. There was what seemed to be a public loo, half hidden by an uninteresting shrub. There was also a hole at the top, caused by one of Mr Phillips's drawing-pins, and I can honestly say that this was the most interesting thing on the card. But this seems to me to qualify for Mr Karmel's boring club: naff-wise, the Southend card won the day for its garish colour, and its total lack of composition and above all the man wearing a knotted handkerchief in the foreground.

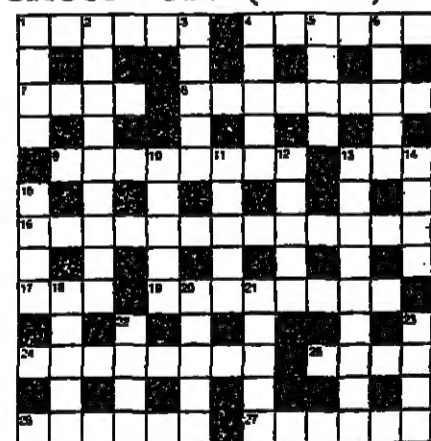
Similarly the most boring one in the international section was undoubtedly the Danish card of the border at Rudbøl. Picture if you can a grey road, some boring houses, and in the distance two cars, with policemen talking to their drivers. Add to that a girl in the road, blonde with very bad knees, and you have a very boring card. But for naffness I had to agree that the Zagreb picture of a loving couple surrounded by bears and roses took the cake. He had a red nose, a gross blue shirt and badly pruned sideburns. She had a red nose, eye shadow applied with a shovel, and protruding arm-pit hair. Poor old Zagreb.

But the best single card of all came from Margaret Evans of Spalding. It was an aerial view of Westminster, published by Thomas and Benacci, and printed in Italy. That probably explains why it has been printed the wrong way round, or reversed. Big Ben is on the left as you go on to the bridge, and on the other side the GLC is on the right, while the Surrey trains are coming into Waterloo from Kent. It is quite hypnotic.

And now I have not left myself with time for "gricer". Soon, I hope.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 507)

- ACROSS  
1. Preaching (6)  
4. Cut in two (6)  
7. Mimic (4)  
8. Protector (8)  
9. String plucker (8)  
13. Lair (3)  
16. First postwar PM (7)  
17. Link (3)  
19. Knock loose (8)  
24. Excess (8)  
25. Covey (4)  
26. After dinner spirit (9)  
27. Soup dish (6)  
DOWN  
1. Explosive projectile (4)  
2. Low-cut (9)  
3. Fourpence coin (5)  
4. Trinket (3)  
5. UI (4)  
6. Hag (5)  
10. Faith articles (5)  
11. Local tax (5)  
12. Sailor (5)  
13. Assiduity (9)  
14. Require (4)  
15. Rabbit tail (4)  
16. Inactive person (5)  
20. Cream (5)  
21. Smallest (5)  
22. Shock (4)  
23. Praise song (4)



SOLUTION TO No 506  
ACROSS: 1 Bared 2 Dice 3 Ephod 4 Unleash 5 Randomly 6 Main 15 Perfunctorily 17 Lame 18 Golconda 21 Silenus 22 Frisk 23 Drab 24 Rotten  
DOWN: 2 Ashen 3 Rod 4 Double-crosser 5 Dolt 6 Chapati 7 Metropolis 10 Hanky-panky 12 Onus 14 Tore 16 Rambler 19 Naive 20 Knob 22 Fat

## The author of Adrian Mole tells how she created a best-seller Secret diary of Sue Townsend

Sue Townsend was nearly 30 when she finally plucked up the courage to confess the guilty secret that had dominated her life. "I've got something to tell you," she announced to her boyfriend, Colin, one evening. "I think I'm a writer."

For 15 years she had been scribbling away in secret, writing poems, plays, short stories, hiding them in a dozen different places, never revealing the ghastly truth to her parents, sisters, ex-husband, children or friends. "I really had an awful fear of showing anybody what I'd written. 'I didn't know if I was any good.'"

For more than a year she has been in the best-seller lists with the soul-searching monologues of a pretentious little prig (her description) named Adrian Mole. It would be hard to imagine a more unlikely literary hero than this lugubrious schoolboy whose life revolves around his scene, his faithful parents and his undying love for his socially superior comprehensive school girlfriend, Pandora Braithwaite.

Yet *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* aged 13½ has sold 80,000 copies in hard cover and almost a million and a quarter in paperback. It is still in the best-seller lists after 52 weeks - 21 of those at number one. Its sequel, *The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole*, went straight to the top of the hardback lists one week after publication and is now at number two having sold more than 300,000 copies in just over three months.

Adrian is set to make his West End debut (from December 12) bringing to life his adolescent hang-ups in a semi-musical of his secret diary that Sue has adapted for the stage.

When the show played in her hometown of Leicester recently, every seat for the nine-week run was sold out within two days and there were terrible scenes outside the theatre with people trying to fight their way in. In



Sue with Simon Schatzburger who plays Adrian Mole

London, Wyndham's Theatre took £12,000 in advance bookings in the first 48 hours. Sue, a whimsical 38, has spent a lifetime watching and listening. "Even as a child I always had the sense that life was rolling on and I was observing it but not actually taking part." She grew up with two younger sisters. Her parents, both bus conductors - "but clever enough to have been anything under different circumstances" - were avid readers.

Sue became addicted to books too and when she left school, just before her 15th birthday, she took jobs that allowed her to sit and read - in a dress shop, on a garage forecourt and in a hot-dog van.

She was 18 when she met the man she was to marry. Three children later, they were divorced. She then moved into a council house and took three part-time jobs - working with old people during the day, in a youth club in the evenings and as a waitress at weekends. It was in the youth club that she discovered the inspiration, for Adrian Mole.

"I was there so long that the

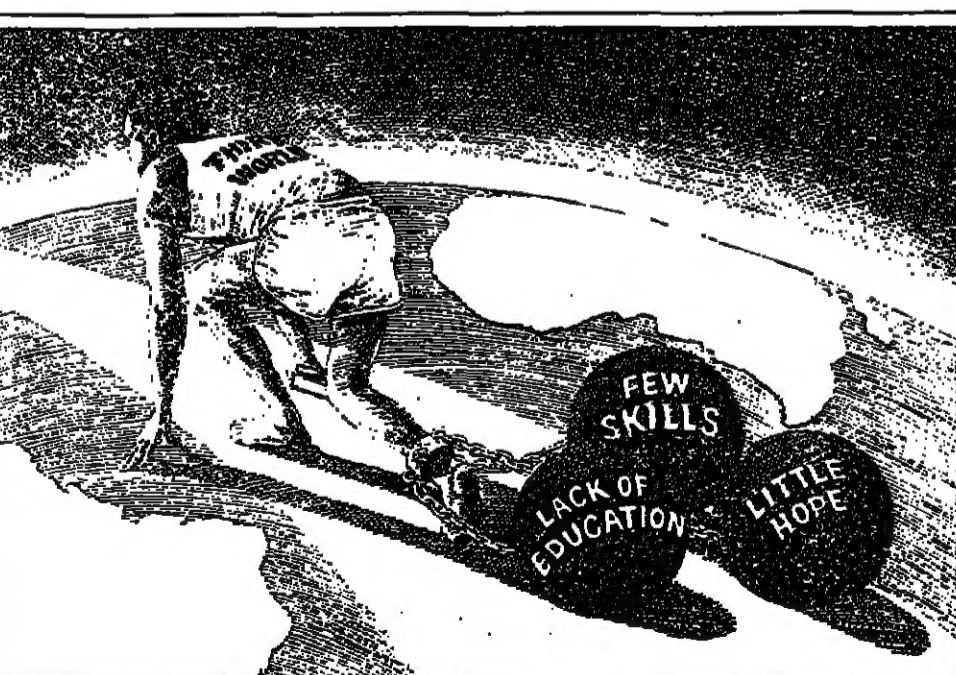
kids regarded me a bit like they regarded the ping-pong table," she says. "They used to speak quite frankly to each other, always in clichés."

Despite strong pressure from her public and publisher, she has decided to leave the highly-lucrative Mole books alone for eight years because she wanted to do other things.

In the meantime, she is working on the stage version in which 16-year-old Simon Schatzburger plays Adrian. Sue picked him out immediately. "He was the only one out of 200 boys who wasn't chirpy and who had an air of mystery about him". She is also writing a six-part series about Mole for Thames Television.

Sue Townsend finds it difficult to come to terms with being rich and famous. She and Colin now live in an old vicarage on the outskirts of Leicester with their seven-year-old daughter and Sue's three other children who are 19, 16 and 14. With her first royalty cheque 18 months ago she bought an eight-seater Citroën, but has not yet found the time to learn to drive.

Sally Brompton



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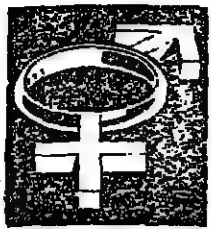
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BBC PUBLICATIONS



WEDNESDAY PAGE

# The family fights back



**Jeannette Kupfermann reveals the myths about divorce and discovers that, in spite of the growing pressures, the family unit remains just as strong**

Whenever a marriage breaks up and children are involved the first thing the deserting husband or wife worries about is how the children will be affected. Yet research seems to suggest that only a few children show obvious signs of disturbance. Perhaps the greater and more obvious concern is shown by the stepparents in any "new" family.

A large survey in the United States estimated that as many as one in six children aged under 18 lived in stepfamilies, and that one in five children born in 1980 could expect to witness their parents' divorce before they were 16. If the remarriage rate remains steady Britain will soon match America.

A study of stepchildren in Britain, carried out by the National Children's Bureau and published this year, showed that 38 per cent of children with stepfathers and 33 per cent of those with stepmothers lived in homes where there were four or more under 21s, compared with 25 per cent living with both natural parents.

The economic facts about stepfamilies are not clear-cut. They are less likely than one-parent families to be in a very low income bracket, which supported the theory that in every income group remarriage helps reverse the financial loss.

A recent study showed remarriage as the most effective way for single parents to recover their economic position, but other studies have found that the standard of living of remarried families was sometimes considerably lower than that enjoyed before divorce, especially when maintenance was being paid.

It is in middle-class stepfamilies that money problems seem to be perceived as greater, especially when there is a temporary drop in standards of living after separation and during the initial reconstitution of a stepfamily. Middle-class men make every effort to restore the standard.

Bob, a 51-year-old television director, who had lived in considerable luxury with his

first wife and three children, felt obliged to take on extra, less desirable, commercial work to support his second wife and young baby. He did not want his second wife to work, although the first wife was still supporting, had worked part-time.

The deterioration of living standards is felt to be an additional failure, intensifying the pressures on the man in the upper-income bracket supporting two households.

The stepfamily's greatest problems seem to be in the roles and relationships which are influenced not only by the divorce that preceded the formation of the family and the children's and parents' widely differing perceptions of it, but also by society's expectations of what it sees as "normal".

The problems of the step-parent living away from the children will be different from those living with the children, and those living away can sometimes feel guilty. Pat Irons, a 31-year-old secretary, expressed this often ambiguous way the living-away stepparent feels.

She is married to an American, whose two children by his first marriage remained with their mother in the States: "I sometimes feel guilty that he's not with them - they're lovely kids. On the other hand, I feel resentment, too, that he can't put them entirely behind him."

Access is, of course, important to the non-custodial parent and is the only way to maintain a relationship between the children and both parents, but the visits can be difficult.

Custodial parents are criticized, and grievances aired, or alternatively the child is "bribed" with gifts and treats. The child can become an instrument for each parent to prove he or she is the better one, that the other parent's care is inadequate and the cause of all the child's unhappiness. The child inevitably tries to maintain a mutually exclusive attitude towards both parents, and often becomes guilt-laden.

Access can also open up the

channel for the child to manipulate the parents. Ruth Inglis writes in a recent book: "A nine-year-old boy visited his father on weekends and told him stories about the harsh treatment he was receiving from his mother. When he returned home to his mother, he told her about the idyllic existence of his father, leading her to believe that her son was being over-indulged by his father."

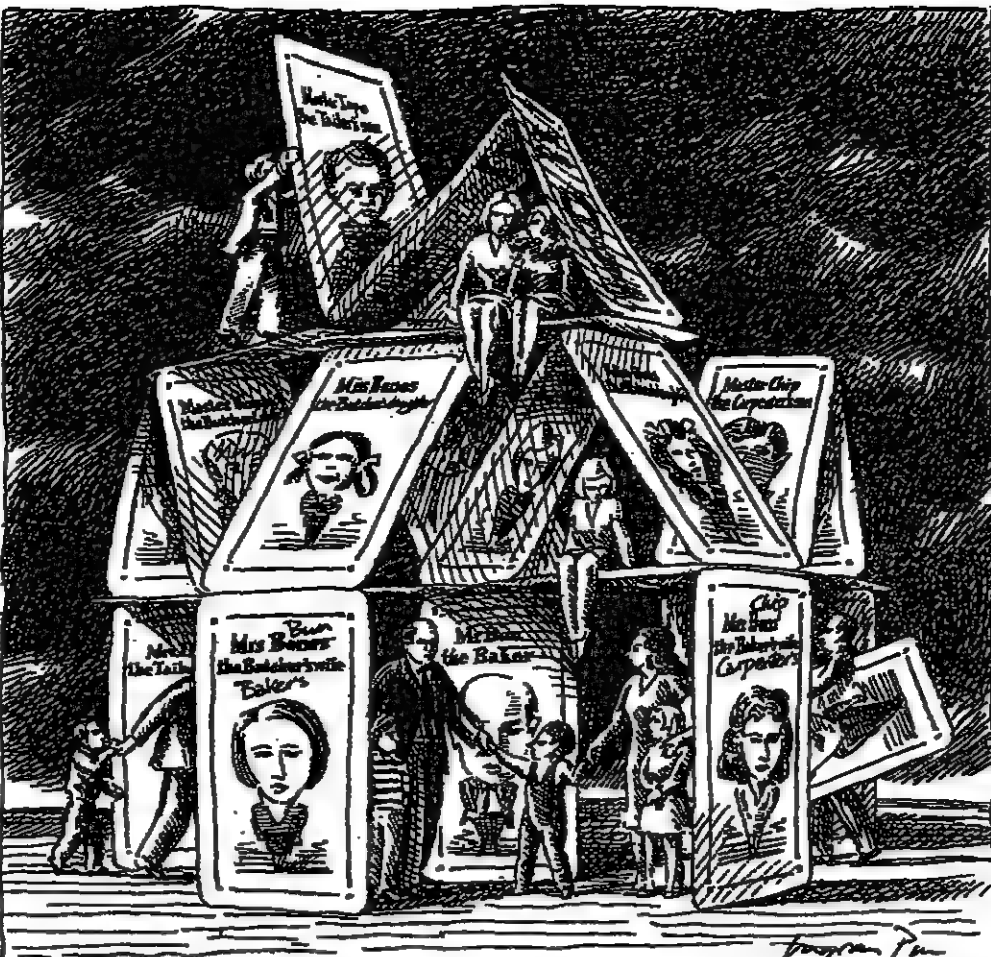
"The parents developed exaggerated pictures... Each parent filled action in court complaining about the adverse influence of the other. When they were brought together and had an opportunity to obtain a more realistic picture of their son's role in exaggerating their concern, they dropped their complaints and established regular contact to discuss plans for their son. They had previously decided to avoid direct conversation. In effect, their son was trying to bring them together in the only way available to him."

The national study set out to test some old assumptions. Was there more deviance, poorer health, poorer examination

**'Stepparents find that problems are worse with teenagers'**

results and lower aspirations among stepchildren? There were adverse findings - but not as many as one might imagine - and most were associated with stepfather rather than stepmother families.

In stepfather families 19 per cent of boys had been taken to court at some time compared with eight per cent of those with natural parents; 20 per cent of boys from stepmothers had dealings with the police or probation officers as opposed to nine per cent from unbroken homes. Boys with stepmothers were not likely to have had more frequent dealings with police, but those living only with their mother did.



The girls fared worst in stepmother families. Four times as many were likely to have dealings with the police than girls from unbroken homes.

As for school attendance, children in stepfather families - like those with lone mothers - were poorer attenders than their counterparts in unbroken families. Surprisingly, both boys and girls in stepmother families contained the largest proportion of very good attenders - 95 to 100 per cent.

Similarly, the study did not reveal any startling differences in health between stepchildren and those in other family variations. However, the differences that did emerge reinforced the pattern for adverse findings to be associated with the stepfather rather than the stepmother - boys with stepfathers tended to suffer disproportionately from upper respiratory infections, headaches and emotional problems.

The good news was that the adverse findings related every time to a minority and the great majority claimed to enjoy good relations with their stepparents.

One wonders if the negative features associated with stepfamilies might not become a self-fulfilling prophecy, and if it is not time to break the cycle by recognizing that stepfamilies have problems, but not to the extent we thought they had, and that many of them are of our own making.

Research does not break the myth entirely that divorce has the inherent power to make people unhappy and produce social disruption, but it does indicate that it is not necessarily inevitable.

For example, it was shown that most stepchildren's attitudes and aspirations for their own future marriage and family did not differ significantly from those of children from unbroken homes.

This confirms that we are holding on to unchanged models of marriage and the family despite considerable change. Society's ambivalence towards the breaking and remaking of families does not help. There is a total absence of guidelines for stepfamily relationships.

The 1975 Children Act embodies the discouragement of stepparent adoption and aims to avoid severing links between children and half their biological family.

But it provides no guidelines for the new "social" family. The role of stepparents is given no formal definition.

Stepparents will find, like natural parents, that the problems are worse if they are dealing with teenagers. One of the big events in a marriage is the arrival of a new baby. It often helps to cement the marriage but it also brings

difficulties even if the first-family children live with the new family or not.

Helen James, who married an accountant with two teenage children and now has a three-year-old daughter of her own, explains: "It is rather sad when the other two come to lunch to see just how much Ann wants to be like them. She talks about them nearly every day and tries to emulate them."

"The 16-year-old boy is polite but gives little in return. The 12-year-old, clearly upset that she is no longer Daddy's little girl, is obviously jealous. Her behaviour sometimes causes problems between me and my husband, who is naturally reluctant to concede that his daughter is behaving badly."

Mrs James found almost instant help when purely by chance she was able to talk alone to the children's stepfather. His experiences with the daughter were exactly the same. Perhaps both families were facing the problems of teenagers, not stepparenthood.

Statistics are not available but it seems that second marriages are as likely to fail as the first. The second marriage has the advantage of at least one partner's experience of failure. He or she will hope to avoid the same mistakes again. Perhaps the failures arise because society expects too much of everybody concerned.

## Cracking the nut case



**Shona Crawford Poole**

Some greengrocers don't care for the customer who picks a nut from the display and opens it with a sharp crack of heel against pavement or food hall floor. It requires skill if you are wearing high or soft rubber heels and those lacking the knack or the nerve are unlikely to have taken a pair of nutcrackers out shopping.

Sweet as a nut, the saying goes, but can you be sure? The quality of nuts is every bit as important as the quality of any other ingredients. Freshness matters because the oil in old or badly stored nuts can turn rancid. Pine kernels are particularly vulnerable, not cheap, and I will not buy them now without tasting one first.

As with other fruits, the varieties planted and the growing conditions matter too, but few of us have much expertise in picking winners. Size and shape are seldom a guide to the sweetness of the kernel within.

The chances are that almonds and hazels which rattle too readily are drier than they should be. Check walnuts for a good seal between the two halves of the shell, and if they have been soaked eat them quickly.

Deciding whether or not to go to the trouble of skinning nuts depends more on the astuteness of the skins than on their appearance in the finished dish. Almond and walnut skins are the ones which most often have to go. Taste and see if they need blanching and skinning.

For florentines, which can be baked tea-time large or petits fours small, a proportion of flaked almonds gives the biscuits a good appearance.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Florentines</b>                                 | <b>Walnut sauce for pasta</b>           |
| Makes 50 small                                     | Serves four to six                      |
| 55g (2oz) butter                                   | 110g (4 oz) shelled walnuts             |
| 6 tablespoons double cream                         | 4 tablespoons fresh white bread-crumbs  |
| 110g (4oz) golden granulated sugar                 | 4 tablespoons olive oil                 |
| 110g (4oz) flaked almonds                          | 4 tablespoons sour milk or plain yogurt |
| 110g (4oz) chopped almonds                         | Salt                                    |
| 110g (4oz) glacé cherries, quartered               |   |
| 80g (2oz) crystallized orange peel, finely chopped |   |
| 55g (1oz) flour                                    |   |
| 225g (8oz) good dark chocolate                     |   |

It really is worth skinning the walnuts for this pale, luxurious sauce. Admittedly it is a fiddly job, but it can be done well in advance.

Pour boiling water over the shelled walnuts, and, after a minute or two, drain and skin them. Soak the breadcrumbs in a little water and squeeze them dry.

Put the walnuts in a mortar with the breadcrumbs and pound them to a smooth paste. Alternatively, use a food processor or blender.

Stir in the oil and sour milk or yogurt, adding it in alternate spoonfuls. Season the sauce with salt.

Serve the walnut sauce with freshly boiled tagliolini or tagliatelli and freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

### WHERE TO GET HELP AND ADVICE

family therapy and counselling services, widely available in America, are few and far between here, perhaps because we are less ready to acknowledge family problems and seek help for them.

The National Stepfamily Association, in Cambridge, where families can exchange experiences, was formed in 1983, but many are reluctant to

join groups whose membership is based on something that may be regarded as a social failure.

American law increasingly takes the view that the best policy is adoption of the stepchildren. There are advantages. It is permanent, and spells security. It gives the stepchild the same status and rights as any natural child, and only fits the legal position to the

actual in many cases. In Britain, the stepparent can take legal custody of the child using guardianship, but the child keeps its family ties, though the name may be changed in a separate action.

It is argued that adoption of a stepchild can create genealogical confusion, and identity problems - but one could also argue that non-adoption and ill-defined status can create social problems.

Schools can help if alerted to the growing numbers of children living in stepfamilies. But Anne Mitchell, an Edinburgh researcher whose book on children affected by divorce is to be published next year, says few parents inform the teachers. Some thought it was a private matter and no concern of the school; others were defensive, saying there was no problem. Parents do not trust teachers.

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Only in the most sophisticated circles, and presumably where there has been a "good" divorce, or a fair time has elapsed, do first and second husbands and wives mingle.

The introduction of family courts and conciliation services is one answer to more amicable divorce. The Bristol Courts Family Conciliation Service, which began in 1979 and is run by solicitors, offers an alternative to court for divorcing or divorced couples locked in financial and access disputes.

However, Gwyn Davis, of Bristol University's social administration department, who has been looking at the work of conciliation services both in Bromley and Bristol, says: "We have no hard evidence about the long-term success of conciliation."

Teachers, doctors, social workers and therapists are professionals who can monitor and help relieve distress. Doctors can refer the family to specialized services such as child guidance clinics, and departments of family and child psychiatry. Social workers too can help adults and children as they come into contact with many families with divorce problems.

### THE PUSHOVER BOUNCES BACK.



In Myron Brenton's opinion, women often cast themselves in the loser's role. But victims can change. 'Passive' can turn to 'positive'. Read 'Pick on me...' in December's Cosmo.

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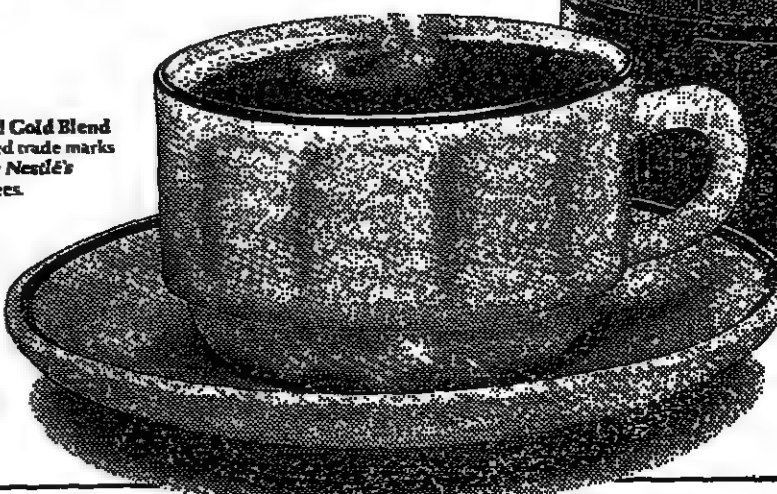
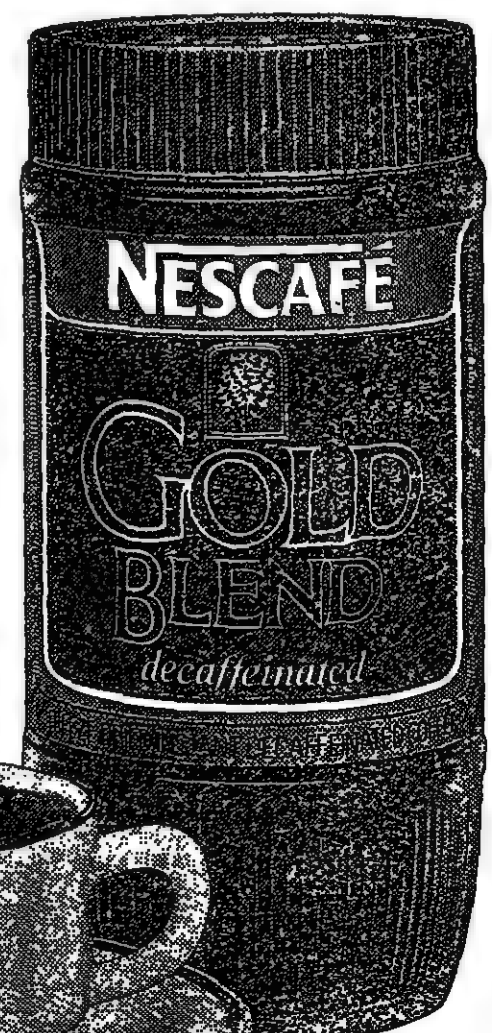
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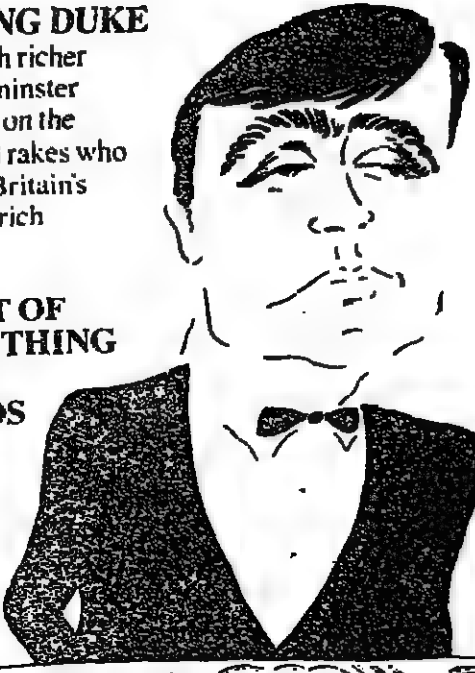
## TATLER

### PEAKING DUKE

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### THE WORST OF EVERYTHING IN 1984 AWARDS

Tatler's trivial tribute



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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Fighting the system

John Gau Productions, the film company brought in to revitalise Labour's party political broadcasts after Neil Kinnock became leader, is threatening to withdraw its services. A leaked letter from producer Peter Gilbe to Labour publicity director Nick Grant states bluntly: "... if the criteria we still apply to the PFBs was applied to our other programmes, John Gau Productions would soon be out of business". The company was only able to keep within this year's budget of £64,000 because "many indirect costs were heavily discounted or ignored" and facility houses gave "several one-off favours". "Obviously we could not afford that to continue indefinitely," says Gilbe. He insists that "a more conventional production system must operate" and refers to proposed 1985 budget reflecting that. If Labour does not accept this, Gau "would be unwilling for his company to continue producing the broadcasts". The matter concludes Gilbe "needs to be resolved as soon as possible".

## Premature

The assassination of Percy Norris in Bombay yesterday could not have come at a worse time for Vimala Arni, director of the Indian Government's London tourist office. She had chosen yesterday lunchtime to hold an informal briefing to persuade travel writers that it was safe to visit the sub-continent despite Mrs Gandhi's shooting.

## Foreign to him

Denis Healey may have visited the Soviet Union six times, but President Chernenko still seems never to have heard of him. Shortly before the Kinnock party walked into his private office, the Soviet leader asked a senior aide for a photo biography of Labour's foreign affairs spokesman. Perhaps it is as well Chernenko was in the dark in Leningrad. Healey offended the authorities by failing to remove his hat at the war cemetery. Glenys Kinnock shocked them still more by wearing a colourful ski outfit considered wholly inappropriate for a wreath-laying ceremony.

## Not really

Compton Miller's updated *Who's Really Who* says of Frederick Forsyth: "This poker-faced aficionado of the bullring bravely chose to become an author. He finished *The Eagle Has Landed* in a month and it was rejected by four publishers. ... This must come as news to the book's author Jack Higgins, who doesn't get a single mention."

## Campaign lost

Eric Heffer, widely credited with having led the rowdy demonstration that halted Commons business last week, is not the hero of Labour's left one might imagine. By rising during Norman Fowler's speech and beckoning his colleagues to follow, he wrecked a plan made by the Campaign Group of MPs the previous day to hear out Fowler's statement, let Michael Meacher make a stinging riposte, and then invade the floor. Heffer's premature action ensured that he reaped most of the publicity and wrecked Meacher's moment of glory. That little love is lost between the two men is an open secret.



'Funny, you'd think they would be crying out for sequestrators'

## Campaign leak

A proposal for the Campaign for Freedom of Information to appoint a member of the Church of Scientology - an outfit described by a High Court judge this year as "dangerous, immoral, sinister and corrupt" - seems to have led to a split within the FCI. According to Professor James Cornford, chairman of the FCI's 1984 Council and a director of the Nuffield Foundation, chairman Des Wilson proposed Canadian scientist Tom Reilly to sit on their foreign panel, but Wilson was outvoted by the committee. Cornford told me, "There is no point in you running this. I hope you won't cause me any more trouble." He added that I would not get a "warm" reception from Des Wilson on the subject. Indeed, when I rang Wilson denied ever proposing Reilly, and said his name just came up. "There are 4,000 million people on this planet. Why should we invite him?" Cornford told me Reilly remained an informal adviser to the campaign; Wilson emphatically denies it. An enraged Reilly is now in correspondence with the campaign - accusing them of discrimination on the grounds of religion.

PHS

# Link arms across the Channel

by William Wallace

Britain and France have a wide range of common interests in defence and security, and a long record of failure in attempting to build on them. The instinctive Atlanticism of successive British leaders has combined with the Gaullist intransigence of their French opposite numbers to sink initiative after initiative, leaving waves of mistrust and scepticism behind.

In London ministerial attitudes to European cooperation are now changing, however, while the old certainties of Gaullist defence policy are visibly crumbling. When Mrs Thatcher meets President Mitterrand in Avignon on Thursday for the annual Anglo-French summit, proposals for closer bilateral defence cooperation will be on the agenda. The Prime Minister should pursue these proposals vigorously.

Sir Geoffrey Howe told the Conservative Party Conference in Brighton that "we need to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance", and at the Western European Union (WEU) ministerial meeting in Rome on October 26 both Howe and Heseltine impressed their partners with their new-found enthusiasm for European defence cooperation.

The core of the current debate is to be found in the Franco-German dialogue launched at a summit meeting between Schmidt and Mitterrand in February 1982. Since then three commissions of senior officials have been meeting regularly, reporting to the six-monthly meetings of

heads of government in which defence ministers take part. Neither side would claim that to have yet achieved a revolution, but some solid progress had been made.

The missing link between the three leading European powers is between London and Paris. It is not that military and industrial cooperation do not exist across the Channel. But there is no sense of mutual commitment, and no political determination to strengthen the limited and often over-formal links which do exist.

Cooperation in procuring arms began more than 20 years ago, although competition between the two countries' arms industries means it has often been a bumpy road. Politico-military discussions between the two governments go easily on East-West relations, arms control, and transatlantic issues, within the multilateral framework of European political cooperation and Nato. Outside Europe, British and French forces have served recently together in the Lebanon and Sinai, and the two navies cooperate discreetly from the English Channel to the Persian Gulf. What has been lacking is a dialogue at the top, a willingness to explore other ways of working together and to accept a degree of intervention in each other's domestic debates.

The characteristic British response to French initiatives is to ask suspiciously,

"What do they mean by it?" We would do better to ask ourselves what our objectives are and how best to harness the current European debate to those ends.

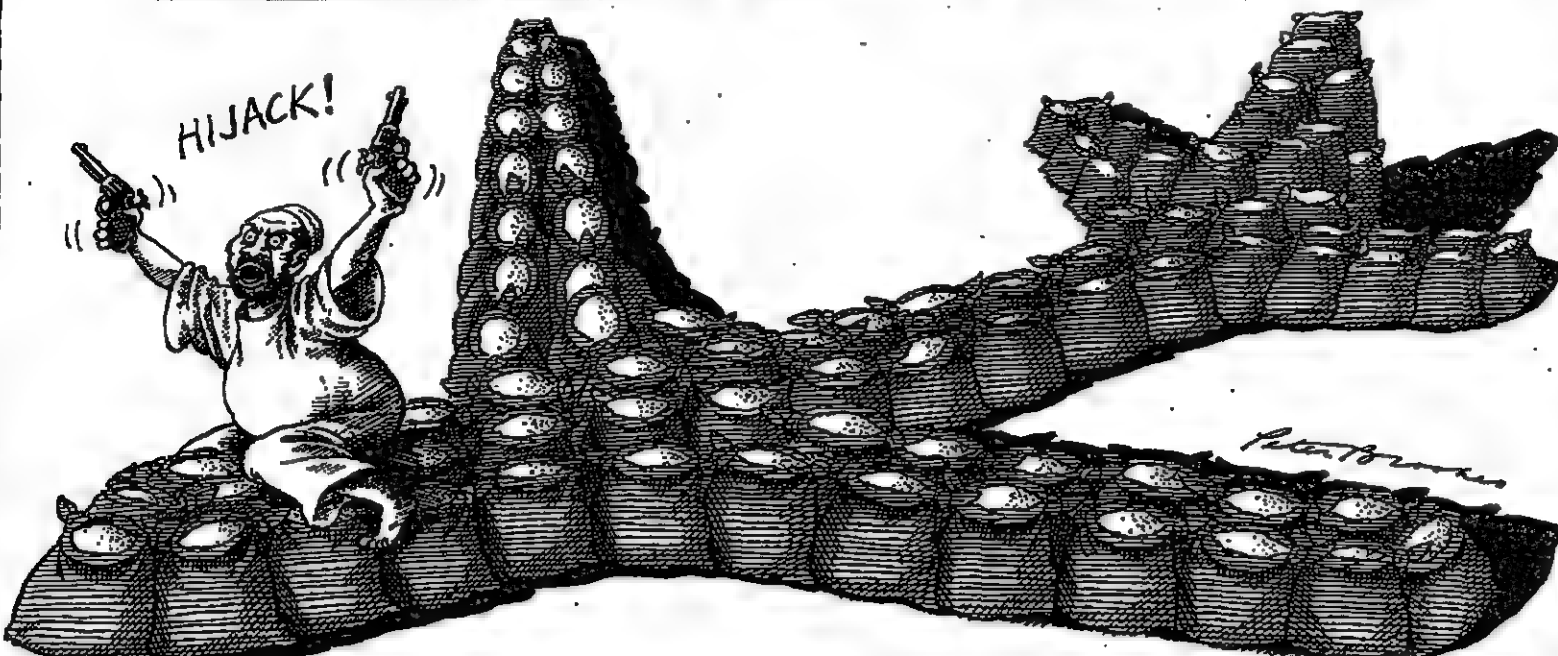
There is a real concern in Paris over the American commitment to Europe, and a reverse of the old Gaullist attitude over how to reassure them about West Europe's contribution to the Atlantic alliance. There is concern, too, about political developments in West Germany, and the need to ensure a future for the French arms industry. There is thus an opening for British ministers to draw the French more closely into sharing the responsibilities of western defence.

The generations of British leaders who have retired hurt from earlier attempts at dialogue will caution that it will not be plain sailing. But international politics rarely is. The Franco-German dialogue has already seen some hard talking behind the scenes. We would have to be prepared to discuss taboo subjects, ours as well as theirs, including independent nuclear deterrents, Anglo-American intelligence cooperation. But the prize could be great. A dialogue with the French which led to a closer link between French defence and its allies would be the single most significant contribution we could make to the alliance in the next three or four years.

The author is deputy director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

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## Mark Malloch Brown on the market forces behind food shortages



## Is there trouble in store for Sudan?

Adam Ahmed Abu Zeid and his sons run a small cafe in the souk of El Fasher, 500 miles west of Khartoum. Their smartly painted sign stands out in the dusty marketplace, where lean nomads from the desert, desperate to sell their livestock in order to buy food, mix with merchants. The latter, freshly dressed in long white jellabas, are selling sorghum and millet at four times its normal price. The cafe sign includes a motto: "Future uncertain, life is a school".

At the moment, there is virtually no outside help for this far-flung corner of Sudan, but there soon will be. As the relief agencies and donors start to look beyond the Ethiopian famine, Sudan has come into hazy focus. The first part of an emergency shipment of 82,000 tonnes of American sorghum has just arrived at Port Sudan. More will follow. Last Friday, Mr Timothy Raison promised £750,000 from Britain. But as aid workers pile in to set up relief centres, they would do well to reflect on Mr Abu Zeid's sign.

Sudan has taken care to avoid explicitly throwing itself on the mercy of international donors in the way it feels Ethiopia has done. President Numeiri, anxious to establish the Islamic self-reliance of his regime, would certainly have to eat a lot of what he has said about the Marxist incompetence of his neighbour if he had to confess too openly that his country could no longer feed itself. But more robust agricultural economies than Sudan's have been brought to their knees by the drought.

Impatient aid officials in Khartoum suspect the government of negligence for not moving more promptly to deal with prospective famine. The 1983 harvest was bad, and the 1984 one is clearly going to be disastrous. Private United Nations estimates suggest that more

than 4m people will be affected and UNICEF has estimated that the health of 1.5 million women and children is at risk. The feeling among the foreign community, and indeed many Sudanese, is that in addition to managerial lethargy Numeiri's ministers and regional governors are frightened of being the bearers of bad news to their chief.

The government confronts a situation which could result in large-scale famine towards the end of 1985. This is where Ethiopia was perhaps a year ago: livestock prices plummeting, grain prices rising, mass migration by the destitute (up to one million Sudanese, mostly from the west, may have moved or are moving from parched lands that will no longer support them), and already small pockets of desperate hunger. Add to that the extra mouths of refugees, including those coming in from Ethiopia and Chad, to feed.

The country's granaries are not empty. Nor were they in Ethiopia a year ago - a fact conveniently overlooked by many who now criticise western governments and the United Nations for not having done more to help sooner.

But whereas food distribution in Ethiopia was principally inhibited by war and politics, Sudan seems to be in the grip of speculators. Grim

reports on the drought and massive crop losses should not obscure the fact that Africa is still growing a lot of food. Sudan's 22 million people in an average year consume about 2.7m tonnes. This year's harvest will only fall about 700,000 tonnes short of that. Even Ethiopia will still have grown more of the food it consumes in 1985 than it is given in food aid.

The top priority for African governments must be to get full use of their own food supplies. Food aid can, in the long-term, be a deterrent to local production (how can a Sudanese or Ethiopian farmer compete in his local market with free food) and is a double-edged sword even during an emergency. It can bring relief to starving people, but can also generate panic hoarding and speculation. So, the amount of food local merchants and producers speculatively hold back from selling in the critical famine months could actually exceed the amount given in food aid.

President Numeiri must persuade the food surplus regions in the east and centre of his country, which are themselves having bad harvests, to release their extra supplies for Khartoum and the west, and to a lesser extent for the north and south.

Nobody knows how much is still in stock from previous harvests. Some argue that the very high prices

should have already prompted merchants to sell. But there is plenty of circumstantial evidence that they have not.

For several years the Sudanese, who in good years are food exporters, have not been able to sell as much grain to the Arab countries as they would like because they have been outbid by competitors. That extra grain is probably still in storage.

The Bank of Sudan has told commercial banks that they must not extend credit to customers for more than three months if it is to be used for holding onto food stocks. The chief culprit is one of the new Islamic banks which have been shouldering the conventional banks out of much of the domestic lending sector. It is an unexpected trait of these opponents of usury, and other non-Islamic practices, that they are avid speculators in food prices.

So while the government is discreetly approaching donors for food aid, it is cautious not to make a song and dance about it for fear of pushing the food price up still further. It is hoping that the bulk of the American sorghum will be distributed in early 1985 when the present meagre harvest should have briefly eased the food shortage. That might seem to be when it was least needed but the government hopes that by getting as much food as possible into circulation, it can bring the domestic price down.

The political economy of famine is a lot more complex than the gesture of putting part of America and Western Europe's grain surplus into the bowls of starving Africans implies. Aid workers would do well to remember the El Fasher cafe-owner's advice: that there is much to learn.

The author is editor of The Economist Development Report.

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## Musical debt to a very good Guy

Many years ago, Noel Coward got into conversation with a fellow playwright, Guy Bolton, about the plot similarities between Coward's *Private Lives* and another work, *Very Good, Eddie*.

"Do you think," asked Coward, rather smugly, "that the author of *Very Good, Eddie* had seen *Private Lives*?"

"I don't think so," replied Bolton. *Very Good, Eddie* was written in 1913 and *Private Lives* in 1930. To Coward's further embarrassment, the author of the earlier play turned out to be Bolton himself.

It is unlikely that any American theatre-writer would have made such a mistake. *Very Good, Eddie* was the first hit in a series of productions whose influence is far more apparent in the West End today than anything of Coward's. Bolton was born at Broxbourne in Hertfordshire on November 23 1884, and although there will be no great celebrations to mark the centenary every musical in this year's bumper crop, from *On Your Toes* to *The Hired Man*, owes a considerable debt to him.

The *Boy Friend* is the most obvious example, but Sandy Wilson's spoof of 1920s musical comedy seems pretty tame compared to the real thing as practised by Bolton. In his shows, a playwright's visit to his godmother drives his jealous wife to flirt with a colonel; a Philippine revolutionary wants to marry an American heiress who wants to marry an executive in hemp; and an impoverished duke

starts running a bootlegging operation ("Don't criticise a bootlegger's English if his Scotch is all right").

When the Chichester Festival billed their recent production of *Oh, Kay* as "the Gershwin/Wodehouse musical", they were doing Bolton a great injustice. He was the most sought-after librettist on Broadway, and a respected partner of the Gershwins, Kern and Rogers and Hart. The plots may have been nonsense, but they were immaculately constructed (perhaps because Bolton was a trained architect: he designed New York's Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on Riverside Drive).

It was at the Princess Theatre, the smallest in New York, that Bolton set about creating the modern musical. Unable to house Ziegfeld-style spectacles, the Princess decided to do the opposite: no stars, 11 musicians and only two sets. Bolton pinned the word "charm" above his desk to remind him of the essential ingredient. The Princess shows were to be intimate and elegant: the audience would leave feeling lucky enough to have attended the most exclusive party.

Before Bolton there was only opera, with its preposterous Ruritanian royalty, or hotch-potch of songs and sketches, with star performers doing their regular routines regardless of the storyline. "Our musical comedies," explained Bolton, "depend as much upon plot and the development of their characters for success as upon their music, and because they deal with

subjects and peoples near to the audience... every line, funny or serious, is supposed to help the plot continue to hold." What now seems an obvious requirement was a revolutionary concept 70 years ago. When critics hailed *Oklahoma!* and its integrated songs and plot as a theatrical landmark, Bolton was understandably a little miffed. He'd been writing integrated shows for 30 years.

His main partners were two other Englishmen, P. G. Wodehouse and Fred Thompson. According to their theatrical memoirs *Bring On The Girls*, Bolton and Wodehouse met on *Very Good, Eddie's* opening night, when Jerome Kern pointed out a man in the tenth row called Wodehouse, and Bolton thought he said, "It's a good show". Even by the standards of showbiz anecdotes, this sounds less likely than one of Bolton's plots. According to Wodehouse, however, "they clicked like Damon and Pythias", and began a working relationship which lasted for many years.

In their desire to eliminate the insidious influence of *Mittel Europe* they sometimes made mistakes. Looking back at a operetta adaptation called *The Riviera Girls*, a huge flop, they felt "that where they went wrong was in being too ingenious in devising a plot to replace the original Viennese libretto, which, like all Viennese librettos, was simply terrible".

They wrote instead "one to those plots where somebody poses as

somebody else and it turns out that he really was somebody else... 'Boy, Guy would say to Plum, his eyes sparkling, 'you could take that plot down to the bank and borrow money on it', and Plum, his eyes sparkling, too, would agree that you certainly could. And then the rude awakening."

Guy Bolton died in 1979 aged 94, having written over 70 plays and musicals, a dozen screenplays and three novels. According to Gerald Bordman, the great chronicler of the American theatre, Bolton's "fore-sight, his high aims and his skills almost singlehandedly pioneered the modern book show". Perhaps the most appropriate tribute to this little-known innovator is that his centenary coincides with a record number of musicals on the West End stage.

In his heyday, his work inspired this tribute by an anonymous admirer (according to some, a young Lorenz Hart):

"This is the trio of musical fame Bolton and Wodehouse and Kern. Better than anyone else you can name. Bolton and Wodehouse and Kern. Nobody knows who on earth they're been bitten by."

All I can say is I mean to get it all. Buy Orchestra seats for the next one that's written by Bolton and Wodehouse and Kern.

Mark Steyn

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Digby Anderson

## Controls that drive the bargain away

Two events last week made me remember Ted: the publication of the *Good Pub Guide* by the Consumers' Association and Polly Toynbee's curious description in *The Guardian* of the splendid Mrs Victoria Gillick as "a frisky, coltish 38-year-old". Oh, the trouble progressive ladies have with gender! Filly, Miss Toynbee, filly.

Ted was an old country boy whose last employment was hedging and ditching for the water board. His loves were pubs, buying and selling "gypsy" horses and, generally, "dealing". His highest commendation of someone was "a man as you can have a deal with". Those he disliked, he disparaged in horse talk as "bad 'un", "wants putting on a lungeing line", "a dodgy old mare" and ultimately, "a Bert Smith job" (Mr Smith was the local knacker).

Ted and I both kept chickens, ducks and geese. A source of considerable expense with free-range poultry came to feeding and netting. One Saturday Ted announced we should visit Jim. He reckoned we could have a good deal with Jim, who had two scrappy hens and a dilapidated hen's (chicken shed) in a field surrounded by netting. We spent three hours with Jim, who knew nothing of the purpose of our visit, and chatted about matters in general.

The field was by a railway line. Jim asked Ted if he'd ever been to London. "Once," said Ted but he'd come back the same day - he didn't know anyone. Had Ted been to the seaside? "No, he'd never seen the sea - what was the point - just a lot of old water - he saw enough of that when he washed his face in the morning."

At the end of hour one, Ted casually remarked, "What do you want keeping two old hens like those for, must be a lot of trouble for nothing." Jim supposed it was. Ted offered to take them off his hands and Jim agreed.

After another hour of gossip, Ted said: "If you haven't got any hens, you don't really want that old hen's. It'll be full of rats anyway."

Ted duly acquired the hen shed. At the end of Act Three, Ted struck. "Now you haven't got any hens and no place to keep any, you don't need all that netting. I could do with some. Why don't... We bought the netting, some very expensive chain-link fencing and twenty 10ft iron posts for a song. Ted dealt for all his goods, and not only with fellow country people. He bargained for drinks in pubs. "Look, we'll call it a pound note and I'll bring you in some pigeons next week."

He was magnificent at supermarket check-outs in the local market towns. To show him a price,

especially a fixed price, was to issue a challenge. He scorned fixed measures too. The grain for the poultry never came in pre-weighed sealed bags and Ted always came off best.

I never saw his pint glass topped up with less than two-thirds of a pint for the price of a half. Though he was neither good at, nor interested in, what he called "head-work", he personified the self-reliant consumer.

The *Good Pub Guide* editor could not be less like Ted. He is infuriated by the fact that some pubs charge more than others and his fury turns into self-righteous and patronising indignation at "another black cloud... (which) needs close watching... tipping for bar food... tipping in pubs for food and drink is not the normal practice... let's firmly stamp on this new idea."

Ted would not mind consumerists providing information but, I suspect, he would be totally contemptuous of their lobbying on his behalf. He certainly would not want them to draw lines round his pint glass to ensure he got full measure. That might well prevent him getting his usual excess measure. In all, I think he would find the consumerist-activist "dodgy". Tipping is, of course, to be encouraged for next to everything. Anything which increases the negotiability of prices is in the interest of the competent consumer. Artful tipping provides a direct incentive for service and can even persuade an employee to collude with the customer against the supplier.

The bias against tipping and price variations is not consumerist but political. It is a view which treats customers as dolls whose interests must be secured by government regulation, standardisation and bureaucratic enforcement, and trading as an activity in which risks and unpredictability are to be minimised. Consumerists with this political view, and there are many who do not share it and confine themselves to giving information, threaten to discredit consumerism as a whole.

I was watching one on television recently playing the indefatigable hero tirelessly exposing a supposedly shady package holiday dealer, along the lines of: "You've got to speak to me (falsely). Come out, I demand it. I am speaking on behalf of many consumers (inflates chest, turns and produces resolute look for camera). There are most serious charges I have to put to you... do you deny..."

Suddenly I recognised someone more odious than any shady dealer. No doubt about it, "a Bert Smith job". The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.

Robin Cook

## Why this change is offensive

Next week the defence ministers of Nato states meet for their annual conference. As is the way with international institutions, the permanent representatives have already taken the decisions, and all that is required of the ministers is the ceremonial laying of hands on the minutes of agreement. It is therefore confidently expected that they will give formal assent to a fundamental shift in Nato's strategy to emphasize the projection of force deep behind enemy lines.

No new military doctrine is complete without a snappy acronym and this one has been dubbed FOFA - Follow-On Forces Attack. The basic idea is that Nato will strike at the rear echelons which the Soviets might marshal to follow on their initial assault troops. The title itself contains controversy, since there is a stubborn school of military analysts which suspects that in the event of war the Soviets will hurl all they have at us and there may be no such thing as follow-on forces. As one British minister has observed: "The Soviets may not oblige us by reading the same text book."

The shift in strategy has been presented as a strengthening of conventional defence and a raising of the nuclear threshold. This is no more than public relations humbug. It is manifest from military manuals that the planners assume nuclear warheads will play a prominent part. Thus the current training document of the US Army stresses the integration of conventional, nuclear and chemical strikes "to describe a battlefield where the enemy is attacked to the full depth of his formations". The same document lists cruise and Pershing II missiles among the weapons to be integrated into such strikes.

In one respect FOFA could even lead to a lowering of the nuclear threshold. There has been pressure in Congress for theatre nuclear weapons to be released at the discretion of military commanders, on the grounds that the time taken to get political clearance is too cumbersome. General Meyer has advised the Senate that a proportion would need to be under the sole authority of the theatre commander, a development which would liquidate the understanding between Britain and the US that there would be political consultation before use.

The true dynamic behind FOFA is not a new-found distaste for nuclear warheads, but the possibilities created by technological advance. Recent refinements in radar, communication, and targeting have brought electronic management to the battlefield and encouraged the belief that it may now be practical to control the use of firepower hundreds of miles into enemy territory. There are doubts as

to whether these sophisticated devices would survive the first rude shock of war which are not dispelled by their collective title of *emerging technologies*.

The danger is that the glamour and prestige of developments at the frontiers of technology may divert the balance from more mundane considerations, such as ensuring that major partners can fire each other's ammunition. There is a more profound risk. The traditional Nato stance of forward defence has the merit of being unmistakably defensive in that it aims to repel any invasion at the border. FOFA by contrast is explicitly offensive, and for all the protestations that it is only retaliatory there must be a real possibility that the other side will interpret it as aggressive.

This consideration demands attention, as the killing ground on the target list for FOFA is not primarily the Soviet Union but the territory of its allies. Much ingenuity is applied by western intelligence agencies to divining how reliable these Soviet allies might be in the heat of battle. The conventional wisdom is that they might remain loyal in the event of a Nato attack, but would be truculent partners should it be the Soviets who launched an invasion. Nothing is more likely to guarantee their loyalty or to promote the cohesion of the Warsaw Pact than our planning to rain down rockets and shells on their home lands.

The argument is sharpened by the parallel preparations of the US Army for its very own version of FOFA, known as Airland Battle Plan. This envisages not merely pumping firepower into Eastern Europe, but following it through with rapid offensives deep into enemy territory.

Revealingly these plans have been described in American military journals as a *blitzkrieg* strategy. The *blitzkrieg* was the characteristic manoeuvre of an aggressive and expansionist power. Such a posture could not exist in harmony with the ostensibly defensive nature of Nato.

The proposed shift in Nato strategy raises profound and disturbing issues, but this major change has had little public and no parliamentary debate. The defence ministers gathering in Brussels next week would be well advised to stifle the final communiqué by keeping the final communiqué to touch. Otherwise the risk of repeating their experience of five years ago, when the endorsement of cruise missiles brought about their ears a vehement popular reaction which was all the greater because the public had not been consulted beforehand.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston





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## NO TAX ON TALK

Mr Nigel Lawson will this afternoon face a certain scepticism from the Treasury committee of MPs about his budgetary arithmetic. He can comfort himself by a glance across the Atlantic, where President Reagan's second-term arithmetic is in dire trouble. Yet there are lessons for Britain's Chancellor in American reaction to the Administration's tax plans, formally released yesterday.

Unlike the British budgetary process, in which spending is fixed first and taxes made to fit after, the American system has thrown up proposals for major tax reform before the President has any clear idea how he is going to tackle federal expenditure. The new American tax plans contain themes thoroughly familiar to Mrs Thatcher's Britain, though executed on a more dramatic scale. Top income tax rates, which are already lower than on this side of the Atlantic, are planned to be cut to 35 per cent. Reliefs and exemptions are intended to be thinned out (though mortgage interest is to remain a tax-protected species). Corporate tax is to be reformed in similar ways, with a cut in the standard rate combined with a sweeping away of many allowances, most notably those tax breaks for investment.

That, at least, is what the US Treasury proposed yesterday. For even before formal publication, the backlash had proved strong enough to drive the President some distance from this tax package, leaving it to be presented at arm's length by his Treasury Secretary, Mr Donald Regan.

This reaction, coming not least from within the White House itself, has two strands. First, the belief that such changes in corporate tax will not stimulate business activity but only anger the business lobby. Although the package as a whole is supposed to be "neutral" that is, neither increasing nor reducing total tax revenue — those sections of American industry that have used existing allowances to reduce tax liability to trivial levels are ready to protest against change. This is a fascinating comparison with the reaction in Britain to Mr Lawson's scaling-down of capital allowances, where industry lacked the same certainty that change would imperil its performance; possibly because this had been signally less impressive in the recent past than the performance of American industry.

But there is another, and important difference. President Reagan only proposes tax change, Congress disposes; Mr Regan, indeed, has only proposed to the nation's proposer. The grip in the American legislative system can be expected to wear down the sharp points of this tax package; many of the existing tax exemptions may survive in some form. Thus the second strand of scepticism, in the White House and elsewhere, is that such "neutral" change might actually turn out to be both vote and revenue-losing, at a time when the President's targets for his budget deficit already look unattainable.

Later this week, we should learn more about how the

President supposes he can halve the deficit over the next four years when his pre-election promises have rendered roughly three-quarters of federal spending untouchable. With defence and social security protected from the axe, such dramatic ideas as the complete abolition of the federal education department are circulating in Washington.

With Congress to deal with, there is no way that President Reagan can cut his budget deficit to \$100 billion by 1988 with a few sweeping strokes of the axe. Hence the continuing, debilitating uncertainty about American budgetary policy. Even so, there are lessons for other governments, like Mrs Thatcher's, in the boldness of President Reagan's approach.

If, with all his legislative limitations, President Reagan can contemplate major changes in public expenditure, then so can a British Government with a massive parliamentary majority. And if such change in America has to be subjected to widespread public scrutiny before it is presented to the legislature, so it should be in Britain.

It would, for example, be good to see Mr Nigel Lawson publicly presenting his tax plans to Mrs Thatcher, substituting open discussion for budget secrecy. It would be good to see a clearer public presentation of the Government's spending priorities before deals are done in Cabinet. An Administration so vulnerable to Congress should be more realistic about financial control; but a Government so much in control of Parliament should be less afraid of public exposure of its options.

## Financial troubles at universities

From Professor R. M. S. Smellie  
Sir, As the head of a large university science department and the father of two sons currently at university I approve of the principle that parents should be expected to contribute, according to their means, to the higher education of their children. This, of course, they already do indirectly through the medium of taxation from which are paid both student grants and grants to universities.

Between 1983 and 1984 there was a dramatic change in the method of calculating student grants which, on the one hand, halved the level of the minimum grant and, on the other, effectively doubled parental contributions. Now it has been announced that in future any family with a residual income in excess of £13,000 will have to contribute progressively with increasing income towards the maintenance and the fees of their children up to a maximum annual contribution of £4,000.

There are three points that I wish to make about this:

1. The whole basis of financial provision for students has been changed drastically in a period of less than two years and this has made it extremely difficult for students and parents alike to make any planned provision for financial support. This is especially true of students currently in mid-course.

2. It is well known that even within the present system a large proportion of parents are unable, or unwilling, to pay the full parental contribution. This can give rise to serious financial hardship for those students affected. The recent and proposed changes in financing students will inevitably give rise to a much larger proportion of students in this situation and are likely to be a deterrent to well qualified and able young people seeking higher education.

3. While it is comparatively easy to assess the family incomes of those who earn salaries or wages there is a substantial group within society, often drawn from business, the self-employed, or the farming communities, whose incomes, as assessed for student grant purposes, are sufficiently low to entitle their children to full grants but who are, nevertheless, amongst the more wealthy members of society by virtue of perquisites such as business cars and their running expenses,

cheap or interest-free mortgages, school fees and so on.

Yours sincerely,  
R. M. S. SMELLIE,  
39 Falkland Street,  
Glasgow,  
November 22.

From Dr Ian J. Deary

Sir, Digby Anderson's point (November 21, p.18) is well made. My only disagreement is the degree to which the NHS system has succeeded in discriminating against lower income groups, as the Black report has clearly shown.

Nevertheless, one sympathizes with his view that the welfare state has succeeded not only in becoming entrenched in a set of rules that benefits upper and middle-income groups in the way he indicates, but also has lost the flexibility to respond to real poverty when noticed.

It is thus surprising that the present Government, in two recent attempts at a small degree of welfare redistribution, should receive such a histrionic response. As the actual figures show, the resetting of student grants benefits to a small degree lower income groups and the abolition of the minimum grant and the increase in parental contribution from those upper income groups are only a small percentage of total income.

Similarly, one has waited long enough for the fairer distribution of the present blanket system of child-benefit payments. As a doctor, with children, I win at the not-too-distant prospect of earning, say, £20,000 a year and still collecting child benefit when, every day, I can see better ways to spend the state's money.

One suspects that the lack of enthusiastic response to the Government's measures is the pique of those privileged members who do not wish to give up a privilege. However, I am encouraged by these present small measures and hope to see further social policy develop along the line of Sir Karl Popper's enduringly sensible dictum (which I paraphrase) "the least discomfort for the least number".

Yours faithfully,  
IAN J. DEARY,  
The Bethlem Royal Hospital,  
Monks Orchard Road,  
Beckenham,  
Kent,  
November 21.

## Okehampton by-pass

From Mr Anthony Sewell  
Sir, In 1977-78, as the Countryside Commission's regional officer, I and my immediate colleagues examined the route proposed by the Department of Transport for the Okehampton by-pass which took the shorter southern route through the edge of the Dartmoor National Park.

This seemed the right choice, taking account in particular of the preference expressed at that time by the townspeople, the road costs and amenity aspects which would apply if there was no national park in the area. The commission were inclined to accept this proposal until pressed by various conservation groups urging the view that every detail of a national park must be sacrosanct.

The commission, therefore, decided that they would put forward for consideration the northern route and I took some part in preparing the original submission to the public inquiry. It is astonishing to find that the argument continues following the long-delayed report of the inspector and the secretary of state's decision.

Indeed, the route goes through the park, but this is because it was convenient to define the park partly

in terms of an extant local authority boundary. A good case could be made for placing the boundary at the top of the slope above the town, or even further south to exclude the unsightly military encampment, in which case the road would be outside the park.

The special parliamentary procedure was not designed to protect national parks and appears to be simply a further device for ensuring that the long-suffering inhabitants, not to mention the road users, suffer yet more delays to satisfy groups who appear to be concerned virtually entirely with a matter of principle and not at all with amenity in the terms of the people who live in the area.

The signatories of the letter in today's paper (November 24) seem to be in danger of losing the wood, and public confidence, for some hedgerow growth virtually in a back garden, on top of yet more Civil Service time and public money, going over a matter exhaustively examined in the inquiry.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW SEWELL,  
Bay House,  
Aldbourne,  
Marlborough,  
Wiltshire,  
November 24.

## Terrifying experience

From Mr John R. Fowler  
Sir, As one of the unfortunate passengers on a train slowly filling with acrid black smoke during the Oxford Circus fire of last Friday night, I feel I must say something about the contrast between efficiency and terrifying inefficiency.

During the whole of the ninety minutes in which my train's occupants were trapped not once did the London Regional Transport "control" respond to the guard's call on the emergency telephone. Over and over again the guard announced that efforts were being made to "raise control", but without success.

The people crammed into two carriages which were slightly less black with the noxious smoke, sitting in darkness, feeling the oxygen running out and the heat building up, required reassurance and confidence in those, literally above, to free us. Being told that those responsible for responding to calls for assistance were "not

answering" did nothing to boost the confidence of the unfortunate victims of this frightening ordeal.

Even the guard himself — a pleasant and manifestly embarrassed and frightened West Indian — expressed his "disappointment" at the breakdown in communications in Anglo-Saxon expletives which none of us sharing the ordeal would ever wish to have "deleted".

I shall pursue this matter until I receive a satisfactory explanation from the London Regional Transport authorities. Three hundred coughing, perspiring and frightened passengers would like an explanation — now.

On the positive side, I would say that the police, ambulance, fire brigade and Tube employees were wonderfully brave and reassuringly efficient in all they did to lead us out of the nightmare.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN R. FOWLER,  
35 Roxborough Road,  
Harrow,  
Middlesex,  
November 25.

## Depths of feeling

From Mr George Watson  
Sir, Dr Scruton's sweeping attack on striking miners, Belgrano-addicts, Third-worlders, feminists and CND (November 13) contrives to link my late colleague, F. R. Leavis, with the cause of modern Conservatism and leaves both looking silly at the end of the argument.

According to Dr Scruton, Leavis taught us to distinguish real feeling from sentimentality, demonstrating that "what is bad in literature is bad also in life". But it isn't. Great literature can disturbingly propose evil as well good, as William Empson showed of *Paradise Lost*, and depth of feeling and freedom from sentimentality are no guarantee of virtue or of truth.

As National Socialism forever demonstrated, a notion can be deeply felt and totally worthless; and sentimentality must be one of the few charges never levelled against Nazism and never likely to be.

The only charge worth making against strikers, demonstrators or (for that matter) Mrs Thatcher and

her monetarist friends is that they have got it wrong. Their depth of feeling is beside the point. So is that "imperfection" in Leavis's character to which Dr Scruton mysteriously alludes. As a philosopher, he surely knows that the truth of a proposition, in politics or elsewhere, is independent of the cause that have led to its being believed or disbelieved by individuals or groups.

I share his distaste for the moral simplicities of much modern political debate, and his fondness for seeing all issues as a struggle between right and wrong or right and left and wonder that he cannot see that a defunct school of literary criticism is part (if only a tiny part) of the trouble.

Mrs Thatcher is as guilty of sentimentality as Mr Scargill or Mr Dwyer, as her rant about "resolution" suggests; and the cost of Conservative sentimentality and its passion for confrontation is now there for all to see.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE WATSON,  
St John's College,  
Cambridge.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Brakes on wheel of enterprise

From Sir Geoffrey Jackson  
Sir, Cuts once again in the Diplomatic Service, the BBC's external services and the British Council are none the less regrettable for their familiarity. Behind them lies, however, a set of national and governmental values that needs rethinking.

In relative terms, and as against foreign aid priorities, these cuts are chicken-feed. For the programmes they damage, however, they are a disaster. They are also chicken-feed compared with our current national prodigality.

Our trade balance sags under imports of consumer goods, including durables that anxious millions of our unemployed might well be producing. Our "showbiz" creeps under mega-star takings for trivia while certain ambassadors, who responded to national crisis with TV miracles of improvisation, presumably find their main reward, like their colleagues export-driving and standing-by around the world, in an inward sense of purpose and service. There is no going-rate for them; we can never pay them enough.

Our Energy Minister recently flogged the wrong horse of the national troika when he laid out his plans for government for his present orientation of the economy. But government's errors, and management's, including the Civil Service, have always been reversible.

Not so, as yet, those of the trade unions. Restrictive practices, over-manning, strikes official and tongue-in-cheek — these are the brakes on competitiveness, as every export-driver knows. And they have culminated in a Royal Princess foreign-built and manned when British shipyards are closing, probably for ever.

Only when union leaders again represent rather than regiment the British working population shall we be once more the "One Nation" that, from without, we are still seen

to be — not incidentally without help from HM Diplomatic Service, the British Council and the external services of the BBC.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY JACKSON,  
638 Cadogan Square, SW1,  
November 23.

From The Managing Director of British Aerospace

Sir, As the leading industrial exporter of manufactured goods actively engaged in high-value sales in more than 50 countries around the world, British Aerospace depends heavily on the advice and support of British diplomatic and consular missions abroad. We have been greatly impressed by the improving professional standards of services available from commercial sections of those missions in recent years.

The complex trading conditions which British exporters all face in overseas markets nowadays means that political advice and contacts are increasingly essential, in addition to the services which commercial sections have traditionally provided.

I am therefore concerned by the prospect that proposed cuts in the FCO budget could cause reductions in the staffs who support British export efforts. Britain's overseas posts are already handicapped in supporting British exporters in comparison with the resources enjoyed by our major competitors.

It is generally agreed that the creation of jobs and the economic recovery of this country must be export-led and I would urge that no further cuts should be imposed without serious thought being given to the impact they could have on these wider national interests.

Yours faithfully,  
RAYMOND LYGO,  
Managing Director,  
British Aerospace,  
100 Pall Mall, SW1,  
November 23.

### Muffling the BBC

From Mr John Bruce Lockhart  
Sir, I write to express my dismay at the proposed cut of £1m in the BBC Overseas Service: the multilingual service sometimes called the External Service.

I have spent a lot of my life abroad, much of it involved in foreign affairs. Though it is hard to quantify, I am convinced that as the reality of our power has declined, the BBC overseas programmes have done more for British influence and prestige than any other single factor.

The simple point is that since the 1939-45 war the British Overseas Service has become trusted. If an intelligent Egyptian wants to know what is going on in Afghanistan or India he turns to the BBC. He doesn't want to know what is happening in Britain — but the BBC represents his only means of obtaining an objective account of what is going on in the world. He knows his own media are untrustworthy, as also are those of his neighbours.

For millions of people all over the world the BBC Overseas Service represents the nearest they can get to the truth. Yet we pay £5m or so to Unesco, basically a corrupt, anti-Western front organisation. We pay millions for one fighter aircraft, plus back-up. Yet we cut down our most influential weapon with hardly a protest.

Truth can be a formidable international force, if skilfully used. We have shown that, above all

others, we can see it. So, Sir, I protest most strongly against these proposed cuts and instead would like to see the overseas services strengthened.

Yours,  
JOHN BRUCE LOCKHART,  
The Reform Club,  
104-5 Pall Mall, SW1,  
November 24.

From Dr J. Graham Watson

Sir, The short-sightedness of the proposed cutbacks in the BBC's Overseas Service was made clear to me last week in Mursmansk. A Russian student from the Kola peninsula studying history and English told me it was easy to listen to the Voice of America or Radio Free Europe if one "wished to listen to their lies", but that it was not possible to listen to the BBC.

My small £8 radio picked up the Voice of America easily, but despite knowing the programme schedules and frequency could not pick up the BBC.

How disappointing that her picture of Britain today is that reflected by the authors of her prescribed books — H. E. Bates, A. J. Cronin and the early works of Somerset Maugham.

Yours faithfully,  
J. GRAHAM WATSON,  
Consultant Paediatrician,  
Children's Department,  
Newcastle Health Authority,  
Newcastle General Hospital,  
Westgate Road,  
Newcastle upon Tyne.  
November 23.

### NI Assembly sittings

From the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Sir In Mr Richard Ford's article, "Assembly faces Hume's test" (November 22) it is stated that meetings of the Northern Ireland Assembly have been reduced from three to two a week because of "a lack of matters to discuss".

The Northern Ireland Assembly sits in plenary sessions normally on only two days a week, for one important reason. Along the corridors of Stormont, six committees — appointed by statute for the role — scrutinise and report on the work of the Northern Ireland departments. This task, which is of the utmost importance for enforcing the accountability of the Government, is carried on throughout each week, and even during recesses. The scrutiny committees cannot sit when the Assembly is in session.

Plenary sessions of the assembly are useful for allowing elected representatives to argue their party's case and to ventilate grievances.

In my opinion, however, the best way forward is for members to work effectively together for the good of all the people of Northern Ireland — as they do, despite their political and religious differences — in the scrutiny committees, away from the glare of publicity.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES KILFEDDER, Speaker,  
Northern Ireland Assembly,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Stormont,  
Belfast,  
November 23.

### Up in the air

From Miss Barbara Crispin

Sir, Privatization may need publicity, but surely not the crude yellow illumination of the words "British Telecom" around the top of the Post Office tower.

One of the most elegant and distinctive London landmarks has been transformed into a garish advertisement for an organisation which is being very adequately drawn to public attention in other ways.

Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA CRISPIN,  
60 Ridgmount Gardens, WC1,  
November 23.

## BIGGER THAN BONN

It seems that, for the foreseeable future, West Germany's Ostpolitik will have to follow rather than lead the development of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. That is the real significance behind the flurries over the non-visit of Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher to Poland.

The West German Foreign Minister was, in part, anxious to symbolize the continuity of Ostpolitik passing from the Schmidt-Genscher coalition government on to the Kohl-Genscher coalition government. It would have demonstrated the special role which Bonn still plays in East-West European diplomacy. Moreover, despite its public reservations about the "nationalist" colour of the Kohl government, General Jaruzelski was privately keen to receive such a high-ranking visitor from Poland's top West European trading partner. This would have been trumpeted in Warsaw as further proof that Poland is coming out of Nato's diplomatic quarantine.

Officially, Bonn says that Warsaw imposed "unreasonable" conditions, by warning Herr Genscher against visiting the Church of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, declining to let him lay a wreath at a memorial for German soldiers who died in Poland during World War II, and refusing a visa to a correspondent of *Die Welt*. None of

these stumbling blocks bears Herr Genscher's personal hallmark. On the contrary, he had made it rather plain that he personally did not want to follow Mr Malcolm Rifkind's example by laying a wreath at the grave of Poland's martyred priest, or by meeting — even privately — Solidarity advisers. Rather did he wish to follow the precedent set by Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD leader, who used his visit to Warsaw to demonstrate support for General Jaruzelski's "normalization" policies.

Understandably, Christian Democrats felt that Herr Genscher was behaving as if he was still in coalition with the Social Democrats. It was these Christian Democrats who rightly put a visit to Father Popieluszko's church back on the Foreign Minister's provisional agenda.

However, it was these same conservative forces who pressured Herr Genscher into an uncharacteristically provocative proposal to honour the memory of those who had executed the Nazi invasion and occupation of Poland; and to do this at the same time as visiting Auschwitz. It would be hard to conceive of a gesture better calculated to offend both the people and the government of Poland.

Two lessons from this confused debacle will be noted in the capitals of Europe. The first concerns West Germany's internal politics. For almost two years now, Chancellor Kohl's government has inclined to say one thing on Sunday and do another on Monday. In Sunday sermons, leading conservative politicians and Ministers have talked emotively about the old German fatherland in the frontiers of 1937 — that is, including much of present-day Poland. In their workaday diplomacy, however, they have proceeded rationally and pragmatically on the basis of full recognition of the post-war frontiers and communist regimes of Eastern Europe. Considered coolly, there may be no necessary contradiction between their preaching and their practice. But the lesson of this debacle, as also of the earlier cancellation of Herr Honecker's planned visit to the Federal Republic, is that such matters will not be considered so coolly in lands once occupied by Hitler's armies.

The second lesson concerns the place of West Germany's Ostpolitik in the larger pattern of East-West relations. Last week's announcement that Mr Shultz will meet Mr Gromyko followed hotfoot on the announcement that Herr Genscher would not be meeting General Jaruzelski. Two months ago Mr Gromyko went to see President Reagan instead of Herr Honecker going to see Chancellor Kohl. This latest affair was not Polish, German or even European: there are larger perspectives.







THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Time for Sterling to unite his domains

The excellent interim figures of Stirling Guarantees Trust (SGT), reported yesterday, heavily reinforce the launching pad for Mr Jeffrey Sterling's next major initiative. It is fair to say that if the hyperactive chairman of SGT does not merge SGT with P&O, where as chairman and saviour he is also riding the crest of the wave, his supporters will begin to question his strength of purpose, while perceptive institutional investors will note the loss of a major strategic opportunity. As timing is of the essence - for psychological as well as practical reasons - a scheme for merging the two companies cannot be put off. If the concept is right, the time is now.

The simplest, and probably the best, way to proceed is via a bid by P&O for SGT, which incidentally, now owns just under 20 per cent of P&O's equity. Once he is embarked on this course however, Mr Sterling cannot afford to fail: the loss of credibility and the consequences that would flow from it are too serious even to contemplate. Nothing can guarantee the success of a takeover bid; all he can do is to present both sets of shareholders with powerful logic and offer them terms that are manifestly fair. The logic is the more straightforward part.

Although P&O is thought of largely as a shipping company, it is, in the modern jargon, a service group. So too is SGT, which, in addition to its substantial property business, is in hand tools, warehousing, catering, exhibitions (Earls Court and Olympia) and security. The management approach for both groups is therefore basically the same; and putting SGT and P&O together would concentrate the top management under one roof. It can profit neither company if Mr Sterling and the team he trusts and wants around him are having to perform in different arenas.

The second point concerns the job still to be done at P&O. While much has been achieved in little more than a year under the whip of Trafalgar House's interest in acquiring the company, the real work has still to be done. P&O has perhaps £200 million worth of under-utilized assets and, by definition, it is deficient in certain areas of senior management. There is a detectable desire in some parts of P&O to revert to old habits now that the "enemy" has been driven from the gates. It is not in Jeffrey Sterling's nature to allow that to happen. He is also convinced, no doubt,

that to be master in one house is a necessary condition for P&O to achieve its full potential.

P&O however, has a distinctive culture which save, at times of crisis, has shown a strong resistance to change. Notwithstanding Mr Sterling's success in saving P&O from Sir Nigel Brookes, his is not yet every P&O man's cup of bouillon. He needs a steady ship and a harmonious bridge and engine room. One difficulty is a lingering feeling in P&O that he is essentially a man of finance and property, and much more damning, a second, Frank Sanderson came among them! Frank almost pulled off the unthinkable: a reverse takeover bid that would have left him and Bovis in control of P&O.

With Bovis now a P&O subsidiary and property as well as construction a significant P&O group activity, the dovetailing of Bovis and SGT's property division must make a deal of sense. SGT's substantial property portfolio would be equivalent to money in the bank for P&O. A merger would also produce a substantially bigger P&O balance sheet - an important factor for an actively acquisitive group, as P&O would undoubtedly become.

So much for the industrial or merger logic: the thornier case to present would be the terms. For a variety of practical and emotional reasons, P&O would bid for SGT, not the other way round. But because SGT's stock market rating is higher than P&O's, any sensible price likely to attract SGT shareholders, would inevitably dilute earnings attributable to P&O's existing shareholders.

There is a persuasive subtlety here, which if P&O shareholders were convinced of the logic and prospects of a merged group, they might have to take on board. The market valuation of a property company's shares is set chiefly by the worth (net asset value per share) of the company's property portfolio. This is a balance sheet item with little immediate reflection in the profit and loss account. It would however, represent positive value if subsumed in P&O's accounts.

The only question would be whether any wavering institutional shareholders in P&O and City analytical nippers would accept that this potential value was enough to offset say a 20 per cent dilution of P&O earnings. We should not have to wait too long to find out.

## The Oppenheimer legacy

When two years ago Mr Harry Oppenheimer stepped down as chairman of Anglo American he said that he would remain at the helm of the sister De Beers company while the crisis in the diamond industry persisted. Diamond prices remain depressed, but yesterday HFO, Anglo-De Beers, second emperor (his father was the first), announced that as from the beginning of next year he will cease to be chairman of De Beers and become again no more than a humble board member.

Henry's had been a remarkable career, with few parallels in international business. During his 50 years as a director of De Beers, 27 of them as chairman, the corporation has maintained its monopoly grip on one of the world's most glamorous and - in good times - profitable industries. His contemporaneous chairmanship of Anglo American saw that company develop from being one of the world's biggest gold miners to an industrial and financial giant whose size and strength far outgrew the limited confines of South Africa.

Although HFO's good fortune was to inherit much from his pioneering father, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, it would be churlish to deny that the present shape and global scope of Anglo-De Beers and its satellites is largely his creation. Indeed, so great has his influence been and so close the identification of these mighty concerns with his own name that the succession has long been the subject of speculation.

The chairman designate of De Beers, Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, is liberal in the Oppenheimer mould - a Rhodes scholar and son of South African chief justice. But he is a corporate man, as is his counterpart at Anglo American these past two years, Mr Gavin Rellly. The family line of succession is with Harry's son, Nicky, who is vice-chairman of both Anglo American and De Beers.

Harry Oppenheimer, whose influence will undoubtedly remain pervasive, has left those who follow him the problem in business of maintaining a global monopoly. It will not be easy.

# Stock Exchange likely to be ruled by single commission

By Philip Robinson

It now looks almost certain that Britain's financial community will be governed by one American-style commission with legal backing rather than self-regulatory agencies relying on goodwill to ensure the rules are kept.

A last-minute argument about whether there should be one commission or two separate agencies generating self-regulation has delayed publication of the White Paper on investor protection.

Originally due out on Friday, it is now unlikely to appear much before the New Year. The Department of Trade and Industry says there are no significant problems and that it is not unknown for a White Paper of this sort to suffer delay.

However, investment sources confirm that discussions between the department, the

Bank of England and the Stock Exchange, have centred around having one commission and have been concerned with "getting it right rather than early". The argument for self-regulation is that self-regulatory bodies may act swiftly to close loopholes in the rules where similar action by a Parliamentary route would take years.

An attempt at compromise is now being made. The goal is to have one commission with sufficient legal backing to be taken seriously but not so hamstrung by laws as to prevent it taking quick action.

Six weeks ago Mr Alex Fletcher, Under-Secretary of State for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, gave the City an outline of what the Government may accept. It came a few months after a 10 member committee brought together by the Bank of England tried to

design a realistic framework

Mr Fletcher then suggested that the pyramid of power from the Department of Trade could pass through two self-regulatory bodies to self-regulatory agencies. There would also be an appeal tribunal and a roving role for Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

Present thinking is now for one regulatory body, probably an investment commission, which will be dominated by the City's practitioners rather than by civil servants. A single body would also make it easier to recruit a "commissioner" of high status.

Legislation on investor protection is still planned for the 1985-86 Parliamentary session. Any long delay may push the Bill into a possible election year when it would face the risk of being postponed.

The Bill would also run the risk of not being quite in tune with the rapid pace of change within the City. That developed further on Monday when Chase Manhattan, one of America's largest banks, gave notice that it wanted to buy both Simon & Coates and Laurie, Milbank.

Meanwhile, a clash looks likely soon between the Stock Exchange and the Council for the Securities Industry, the City's ultimate self-regulatory group. Both have published views on how to avoid potential conflicts of interest thrown up by the formation of financial conglomerates.

Mr Fletcher said in a speech to accountants yesterday that they should encourage their corporate clients to seek early guidance on mergers and to make public statements as early as possible to avoid creating a climate for insider dealing.

## Bank smooths Telecom issue

By Jonathan Davis  
Business Correspondent

The Bank of England is making up to £1,500m of extra liquidity available to the money markets next week to compensate for the huge outflow of funds expected to be caused by the British Telecom share sale.

The massive market-smoothing operation - one of the biggest of its kind ever mounted by the Bank - was announced last night after a day in which applications for BT shares continued to pour into the receiving banks in the City and around the country.

Although no formal estimate of the level of response was being given by Klenwort, Benson, the Government's merchant bank advisers, the final tally now looks set to be well in excess of two-and-a-half million - with some estimates that it could be as much as three million. The deadline for applications to be received is 10 o'clock this morning.

With the shares expected to open at a significant premium



Geoffrey Pattie will see applications counted

when dealings start next Monday, Government ministers and officials at Klenwort, Benson are already preparing for the inevitable charges that the shares have been underpriced.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, fired a warning shot yesterday when he told Mrs Thatcher in House of Commons exchanges that Swiss and US bankers and brokers were buying BT shares forward at a 40 per cent premium to the

initial partly paid price of 50p.

He accused the Government of bungling the sale and said the practice of buying shares forward before an issue had closed would be illegal if it was done by British subscribers.

Harvard Securities, the licensed dealers, said on Monday it had done a deal selling 300,000 shares from an American underwriter of the issue to a London investment institution.

The Government also came under fire yesterday for the costs associated with the issue when Mr John Butcher, a junior Department of Trade and Industry minister, disclosed in a written reply that the Government faced costs of over £120m for the marketing of the shares in the City and overseas.

The Government can be expected, however, to make much of its success in broadening the spread of share ownership with the BT issue. Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the information technology minister, will visit the City tomorrow to see the share applications being counted.

## Intasun bid rejected by Comfort

By Alison Eadie

Intasun, the package holiday group headed by Mr Harry Goodman, has made a £44.5 million bid for Comfort Hotels, in which it took a 14.97 per cent stake last month.

However, minutes after Intasun announced its bid, Comfort Hotels launched an agreed bid, worth £16.6 million in shares and £12.1 million in cash, for Prince of Wales Hotels. Comfort dismissed Intasun's bid as "wholly unacceptable" and its chairman, Mr Harry Edwards, said that price was not the relevant issue. Comfort's growth prospects are better if the group remains independent, he added.

Intasun will not pursue its bid for Comfort if the purchase of Prince of Wales is approved by shareholders at an extraordinary meeting. Intasun, as a shareholder, may well ask for an adjournment of that meeting to give Comfort shareholders a chance to consider the Intasun bid.

Intasun does not want POW, because its eight hotels are either in the provinces or in an inconvenient part of London. It wants Comfort because the 20 hotels it owns are concentrated in central London and Europe. Intasun's plan is to diversify into London and overseas hotels. It believes Comfort is paying too much for POW.

The terms of the two bids are two new Intasun shares and 130p cash for five Comfort shares and 98 Comfort shares for 54 POW shares or a cash alternative at 98p.

Comfort's shares rose 7p to 74p. POW's rose 6p to 121p and Intasun's rose 3p to 113p.

## Telerate profits lift Exco

By William Kay, City Editor

Shares in Exco International rose 5p late last night, after the news from New York that Telerate, in which Exco holds a 51 per cent stake, has increased pretax profits from \$36.3m (£30.2m) to \$58.7m, on sales \$46m higher at \$114m.

This has pushed earnings per share up from 48 cents to 65 cents, and the quarterly dividend from five cents to eight cents.

During the year to the end of September, the number of installed Telerate terminals rose

from 11,000 to 14,000 worldwide.

The company's earnings increase stemmed from a continuing flow of domestic orders, both from first-time subscribers and established users.

Exco sees Telerate as the basis for an international financial information system, through which investors will ultimately be able to deal in any type of financial security.

Hardly facing the Stock Exchange, page 17

## Norway plans another oil price cut

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Norway is planning to bring its oil price for December

contract into line with Britain's but is waiting to the last possible moment before announcing any price change for fear of starting a chain reaction.

Norway's crude oil contracts are priced 30 cents above the official market price for Britain's North Sea Brent crude at \$28.65 a barrel from the British National Oil Corporation (Bnoc).

Spot-market prices are more than £1.50 lower and Norway's state oil trading operation, like Bnoc, has been losing money as it is forced to buy-in oil at its market price but has been seen by its customers move increasingly to the spot markets.

It was Norway's last price cut which, when followed by

Britain and then Nigeria, forced the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to agree no production cuts.

A spokesman for the Statoil said that Norway will try to hold off announcing its December price as long as possible but is already aware that oil traders feel that a cut to bring prices into line with Britain's will not be enough.

## Further US prime cuts

The pound recovered some of Monday's sharp losses yesterday, as further reductions in prime rates were announced in the United States. Sterling gained 90 points against the dollar to close at 1.2090 in London, also picking up two pence against the Deutschmark. The sterling index rose by 0.4 to 74.6.

Share prices in London were marked up in moderate trading ahead of today's closing date for the British Telecom applications. The effect was to lift the FT 30 share index by 3.2 to a fresh record of 925.3.

Confirmation that Monday's quarter-point cuts in US prime rates were only a start was provided by Chase Manhattan Bank, having failed to move its rates on Monday. Chase cut its prime rate from 11.75 to 11.25 per cent yesterday.

The dollar was subdued yesterday as financial markets awaited details of the US Budget, but dealers said that the prime rate reduction had little impact. Further cuts, to take the prime rate to 11 per cent, are expected.

Sterling was trading at \$1.2030 in New York last night.

### STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 0000.0 down 00.0 (high: 0000.0; low: 000.0)  
FT Index: 925.3 up 3.2  
FT 100: 63.00 down 0.06  
FT All Share: 52.25 up 0.65  
Bargains: 17.481  
Datamark USM Leaders  
Index: 105.26 down 0.28  
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (Index): 1209.14 up 3.20  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,184.12 up 21.16  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1112.73 down 1.23  
Amsterdam: 177.8 down 0.6  
Sydney: ACO Index: 752.5 down 13.0  
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1086.01 down 6.0  
Brussels: General Index: 158.21 down 0.29  
Paris: CAC Index: 181.2 down 0.5  
Zurich: SKA General: 313.00 down 0.20

### CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE  
Sterling Index: 74.6 up 0.4 (range 74.5-74.2)  
Sterling: ACO Index: 752.5 down 13.0  
DM: 3.6925 up 0.02  
FF: 11.3125 up 0.0695  
Yen: 296.75 up 1.40  
Dollar Index: 141.7 down 0.2  
DM: 3.0525 down 0.0070  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling: \$1.2030  
Dollar: DM 3.0720  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECU: DM 6.04770  
SDR: £0.825007

### INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates: 9%-9 1/2%  
Finance houses base rate: 11%  
Discount market loans well fixed: 9 1/2%  
3 month interbank: 9 1/4%-9 1/2%  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar: 8 1/4%-8 1/2%  
3 month DM: 5 1/4%-5 1/2%  
3 month FF: 11 1/4%-11 1/2%  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate: 11.75-11.25  
Fed funds: 8 1/4%  
Treasury long bond: 103 1/2%-103 3/4%  
ECG Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 3 to November 6, 1984, inclusive: 10.616 per cent.

### GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am: \$333.35 pm: \$332.90  
close: \$333.50 - \$334.00  
(\$275.75 - \$276.25)  
New York (last): \$332.40  
Kruggerand (per coin):  
\$343.00 - \$345.50 (\$294.00 - \$295.25)  
Sovereigns (new):  
\$78.50 - \$79.50 (\$64.75 - \$65.75)  
\*Excludes VAT

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Half-year profit up at Rothman

Rothman's International, the cigarettes group, yesterday announced half-year profits of £84.4 million against £75.9 million for the same period last year. Sales were £23 million higher at £779 million. The interim dividend is raised from 2p a share to 2.2p. Sir David Nicholson, the chairman, is retiring at the end of next month.

● ALLIED-LYONS is paying an interim dividend of 2.6p (2.42p) for the 28 weeks to September 15, after pretax profits improved from £90.5 million to £100.8 million.

● BEECHAM, the pharmaceuticals and consumer products group, has increased pretax profit for the half year to September 30 to £142.8 million up from £127.4 million. Turnover increased from £950.8 million to £1,087 million. The interim dividend is increased to 5.1p against 4.6p last time.

● EAST LANCASHIRE Paper Group shares shot up 12p to a record high at 109p on the announcement that the company has received an approach, which may or may not lead to a bid, from an unnamed third party.

## Currys sales 'success'

By Christopher Dunn

A jubilant Mr Terry Curry yesterday claimed that the new retailing formula of the revamped Currys Group was working beyond expectations and urged shareholders yet again to reject the £240 million-plus offer from Dixons Group, which closes next Friday.

According to Mr Curry, managing director of Currys, the group's first new superstore, which opened in Birmingham

in October, took £250,000 in its first week, and boosted central Birmingham sales by 70 per cent, compared with 1983. The newly opened Newcastle superstore has seen equally spectacular gains.

Mr Curry also forecast record Christmas trading for the group. Later, the Dixons camp rejected the claims of the Currys Group as unrealistic.

## Stockley wins go-ahead for high-tech park at Heathrow

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Stockley, the property development company set up by Mr Stuart Lipton, Mr Elliott Bernard and Mr Jacob Rothschild, has obtained planning permission for its 340-acre Stockley Park development close to Heathrow airport with £75 million in funding for the project from the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

The funding is believed to be the largest single transaction undertaken by an institution in the United Kingdom. The USS will have the option to own a 10-acre site of 30 acres at Stockley Park and will develop 500,000 sq ft of space. There will be an initial speculative development of 120,000 sq ft in three buildings on the business park.

The financial arrangements with the USS, which was originally involved in the project with Trust Securities before Stockley took it over, mean that the fund will put up

£50 million of development money with a £25 million 10-year debenture loan at 10 per cent. The money will pay for the first phase of the development and for all the infrastructure works on the site.

The costs will be high as the scheme is being built on what was a rubbish tip.

The land has been put together by Hillingdon Council and Stockley with the council handing over the freehold of its part to the developer. In return, Stockley will build a golf course for the council.

Stockley will then have permission for 1.5 million sq ft of space on the rest of the site for which it will have to find tenants and funding. Stockley will participate from any profits arising from the USS development and will be left with an asset in the shape of serviced land close to Heathrow, an area much in demand from electrical and computer companies.

The whip hand appears to be held by Mr John Fletcher, the former Asda stores group managing director. He also has a bid in for Cullen's but owns only 10.1 per cent of the voting shares.

Cullen's voting ordinary shares closed 5p higher at 480p, 20p more than Mr Cartier's cash bid. There is also an alternative offer from Mr Cartier, worth 260p in cash and two shares in a new company from every Cullen's voting share.

Ranked against him is the 32.4 per cent of the voters committed to an earlier £7.9 million bid by Watling (105), a company set up by three men who resigned recently from top jobs with Imperial Group so as to be free to bid for Cullen's.

Mr Cartier already has backing for his bid from Mr David Cullen and G.Y.'s decision gives an irrevocable undertaking to accept the new offer has given him control over nearly 35 per cent of the group's voting shares.

During the year to the end of September, the number of installed Telerate terminals rose

# "We are now No.1 in the world..."

## ...and we intend to stay there."

David Wickins, Circa. 1984.

Our business is auctioneering - no more, no less. And as auctioneers the figures show where we stand today in the world.



Auctioneering Turnover	
	£000
Sotheby's	401,000
Christies	260,000
BCA GROUP	1,217,224

BCA are not dealers in cars, commercial vehicles, earth movers, road scrapers, refrigerators, freezers, ex-M.O.D. vehicles or repossessed vehicles or other goods. We do, in fact, sell ALL these items but as agents, not principals.

"We do not look like being short of items to auction in the future and now we are No.1 in the world, we intend to stay there," says Chairman, David Wickins.

"In all the years I have been running our business, now 38, I have never known it so well poised to face the future and have never been more confident of its continued success."

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## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Interest hopes help index to record

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares, as measured by the FT 30 share index, climbed to a new peak yesterday. Encouraged by interest rate hopes and the expectation that the British Telecom flotation will be an outstanding success, leaders were in buoyant form with the index hitting 925.3 points, a 3.2 points gain.

But trading was often pathetically thin. It was the absence of any significant sellers rather than any buying strength which helped prices.

Demand was selective and often confined to special situations. The more broadly based FT SE share index was 1,178.0 points at the close, 8 points below its best level.

Debenhams, the department stores group, was an outstanding feature 4p to a 218p peak amid speculation that the long

suspected takeover bid was about to materialize.

But the company secretary, Mr. Nicholas Webster, said: "There has not been a takeover approach."

Market men, however, believe that, even without a bid Debenhams shares are looking attractive, the reorganization directed so successfully by Mr. Robert Thornton, the chairman, is clearly paying off. The Webber credit side is continuing to progress. With bumper Christmas trading in prospect the company seems eminently capable of achieving about £47 million in the year to the end of January.

Harris Queensway, a business associate of Debenhams gained 2p to 212p a high for the shares. Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker, has shown steady support for Harris in recent weeks, letting it be known that it regards the rating in the furnishing retailer as too low.

"We think the share price should be nearer £3 than £2," say the analysts team at Capel-Cure. Given the recent strength in the share prices of rivals such as MFI and Home Charm - big store chains which are likely to benefit from changes in Sunday trading laws there is plenty of logic to back the brokers' "buy" tag.

Good news from the Ministry of Defence helped Ferranti recover much of Monday's markdown in the share price. The ministry has confirmed an order for upgrading of the radar system for the Sea Harrier aircraft, worth £100 million to the Scottish electronics group. The order has been on its way since summer last year, but Ferranti shares appreciated the confirmation and rose 4p to 174p.

The snooker professional Mr. Rex Williams is bringing his business, Rex Williams Leisure, to the USA via a placing at about 20p a share by Margetts and Addenbrooke, the broker. RWL offers a pool and snooker service to pubs and clubs. Profits for the year ending next Friday are forecast at £165,000 (£91,000). About 35 per cent of the equity is being placed.

British Aerospace, which suffered alongside Ferranti earlier in the week of a £1,000 million Saudi contract going to French aircraft makers, also recovered ground, rising 10p to 361p.

Tace, the second-line electronics stock, was moving firmly ahead again; the shares rose 10p to another new high of 308p. Investors are showing

enthusiasm for Tace's 62.5 per cent holding in Goring Kerr, which in turn has shown some pace in its share price on news of good demand for its detection systems products in the US. Goring shares gained 10p to 405p.

At that price the Tace holding in Goring is worth £15.18 million, or 240p a share, and Tace itself is reckoned to be doing well. Sheppard & Chase, brokers to the company, forecast full-year profits of £2.25 million against £1.22 million last year.

The shares of Security Centres Holdings plummeted 33p to 200p, equalling their low for the year despite the announcement of interim pretax profits up 53 per cent to £2.7 million.

The company announced it was selling its British alarm installation and monitoring businesses for £8.5 million to Automated Security Holdings. ASH shares closed 5p lower at 175p.

Security Centres is also buying the whole of the share capital of Defence Systems International for £1 million. The company said the British alarm installation business would require a high, continuing level of capital expenditure to achieve acceptable levels of profitability.

Bank shares, after their distress on talk on Saudi Arabian problems, recovered strongly, helped by some bullish broker comments.

Although prices closed a shade below their best levels, Lloyds, which was hardest hit by the sellers, closed 15p higher at 529p.

Insurance shares were also in form. Composites, helped by vague talk of bid developments,

Thorn EMI was in the wars, dipping by 12p to 477p on one stage, before closing at 484p. A chat on Tuesday with James Capel, the stockbroker and a selection of institutional shareholders caused concern. But later in the day, analysts began looking forward to a closer view of Immos and its micro-chip productions. Analysts will visit Immos on December 10.

were strong with Royal Insurance gaining 20p to 533p and Commercial Union rising 4p to 175p.

International Signal and Control kept up its cheerful response to news of a US acquisition. IS&C is paying around £31 million in cash and shares for Zeta Laboratories, a high technology group.

Also among electrical companies, Volex Group jumped 13p to 133p, close to its high for the year, after Monday's news of an almost doubled interim dividend went up from 1.3p to 2.5p, although profits showed more modest progress in rising from £1.32 million to £1.61 million.

On the carmakers' lists, Jaguar was again moving sharply, the shares gaining 3p to 220p on continued US buying support. The weak state of sterling in trade against the dollar also helps Jaguar, given the company's high level of trade in the US.

Automotive Products, the spare parts and components makers for the motor industry, was also gaining ground, rising 4p to 67p. The company revealed increased demand for its products at the time of its half-year results in September.

The Intasun bid for Comfort Hotels International and CHI's offer for Prince of Wales Hotels, had the rest of the market's provincial hotels portfolio in a spin. Queens Hotel Group jumped 3p to 52p; Moussie Charlotte Investments gained 3 1/2p to 71 1/2p.

TEMPUS  
Allied-Lyons falls foul of market fears

Allied-Lyons produced interim figures nearly up to market expectations at £100.8 million, an improvement of 11.4 per cent over the £90.5 million of Whitbread's 15.2 per cent improvement, noted that property profits had more than doubled to £10.9 million, and registered its disapproval in the usual way. At one stage, the shares were down 10p to 160p, before recovering to 164p.

The Allied board was probably slightly bemused by the reaction. Beer profits were ahead by about 14 per cent to £54.4 million, and the group says that beer volumes have held steady, compared with a national fall of about 1 per cent, and Whitbread's even worse performance.

The wine and spirit profits again look reasonable, at £27.2 million, given that the Christmas selling season is crucial to the year's overall performance. Food profits advanced by about 11 per cent to £25.1 million.

Allied has some good news to tell on the beer new products side; Castlemeine XXXX is now moving towards national distribution. Tables wines, where volume really matters, enjoyed a sharp lift-off in demand after the Budget, and sales gains here appear to have outweighed the tougher going in fortified wines and cider.

Private label business with supermarkets and other retailers is still moving ahead rapidly, perhaps helping to outweigh the selective impact on sales of the miners' strike.

The market's fears are partly the result of a generalized sense of malaise over the figures. A fairly depressing statement did not help. Allied refers to acute competition for volume, accompanied by margin pressures, and this comment is validated by the low sales gain of just 9.3 per cent. Whitbread turnover advanced by nearly 17 per cent. The outcome for the year may be just satisfactory.

But there are more specific causes for apprehension. Finance charges are ahead by £3 million to £28.6 million. The drive to cut costs shows up in reduced head office charges, and Allied is also talking about working capital pressures, after

higher tea and coffee prices. Gearing is now about 28 per cent of equity, and a mere 1 per cent gain in earnings may reflect cash flow pressures.

Significantly, Bass, which reports full-year figures next week, put on 5p yesterday to 443p. Its price relative has consistently outperformed Allied-Lyons in the last year. Have Allied figures provided a buying signal for Bass?

Analysts have been revising down their profit forecast for Courtaulds for more than a month so the textile group's less-than-stellar performance for the half-year to the end of September caused few surprises when unveiled yesterday. Food profits were up only £47.7 million to only £54.3 million.

A better than expected 17 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 1.4m helped to relieve disappointment and the shares closed 2p higher at 123p.

The cyclical downturn in man-made fibres, which began to set in towards the end of last March, is more or less the whole story. Exports, accounting for between a third and a half of the group's fibre sales, were particularly badly affected, falling by about 17 per cent during the first half as a whole though this was partly due to timing differences in sales to Eastern block countries.

However, all the signs are that the bottom of the cycle will be relatively shallow and probably no further away than the middle of next year. Moreover, the downturn has given the company the excuse to trim back further on viscose capacity at its two British plants.

If nothing else, the cyclical fall-off in demand has shown just how effective the group's five-year rationalization programme has been in limiting the effect of volume fluctuations on profits. Despite the decline in exports, the fall in operating profit in the fibre sector during the first half was a relatively modest £3.2 million to £27.6 million, and, if anything, helped by price rises, margins actually improved.

In the rest of the group, profits at BCL were affected by

one off costs associated with new investment. The clothing division, which relies on Marks and Spencer, continued to make spectacular progress on the back of greater operating efficiencies.

After recent setbacks, the shares begin to look relatively good value. But the answer to the old question of what the group will do on a corporate level now that its house has been set in order remains as inscrutable as ever.

**Beecham Group**  
Beecham's reputation as a quality company managed to steer it through yesterday's somewhat mediocre results. The increase in the share price by 1p to 366p owed more to relief on the market's part than a genuine belief that the company had overcome its difficulties on the pharmaceutical side.

Pretax profits of £142.8 million, up by 12 per cent, were flattered by the full six months' benefit of the rights issue. After stripping out this and the effect of the acquisitions, the underlying growth looks much less attractive.

The group is still suffering from problems in Nigeria, where import licences for pharmaceuticals are just beginning to trickle through again, and Japan where the effects of drug price cutting still bite hard. Beecham estimates these two countries cost the group £10 million in lost profits.

There are still problems in Britain's pharmaceutical business which is at best stagnant. The Government's efforts to curb prices are forcing the group to finance operations from the more successful consumer products where brand names such as Lucozade and Horlicks remain strong.

The bright spot for Beecham is the United States which now contributes a third of the group profits and will soon exceed 50 per cent. All aspects of the US activities improved and the antibiotics Augmentin had a successful launch in September.

Full year profits of £315 million are in sight, boosted by favourable currency fluctuations. However, the increased tax charge will hit earnings per share.

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984 High Low Stock	Price	Chg	%	1984 High Low Stock	Price	Chg	%	1984 High Low Stock	Price	Chg	%	1984 High Low Stock	Price	Chg	%
180 718 Aberdeen	150	+	7.5	173 129 Gibraltar	160	+	2.0	38 325 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	180 718 Aberdeen	150	+	7.5
181 719 Anglo	150	+	7.5	174 130 Glynco	160	+	2.0	39 326 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	181 719 Anglo	150	+	7.5
182 720 Anglo	150	+	7.5	175 131 Glynco	160	+	2.0	40 327 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	182 720 Anglo	150	+	7.5
183 721 Anglo	150	+	7.5	176 132 Glynco	160	+	2.0	41 328 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	183 721 Anglo	150	+	7.5
184 722 Anglo	150	+	7.5	177 133 Glynco	160	+	2.0	42 329 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	184 722 Anglo	150	+	7.5
185 723 Anglo	150	+	7.5	178 134 Glynco	160	+	2.0	43 330 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	185 723 Anglo	150	+	7.5
186 724 Anglo	150	+	7.5	179 135 Glynco	160	+	2.0	44 331 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	186 724 Anglo	150	+	7.5
187 725 Anglo	150	+	7.5	180 136 Glynco	160	+	2.0	45 332 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	187 725 Anglo	150	+	7.5
188 726 Anglo	150	+	7.5	181 137 Glynco	160	+	2.0	46 333 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	188 726 Anglo	150	+	7.5
189 727 Anglo	150	+	7.5	182 138 Glynco	160	+	2.0	47 334 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	189 727 Anglo	150	+	7.5
190 728 Anglo	150	+	7.5	183 139 Glynco	160	+	2.0	48 335 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	190 728 Anglo	150	+	7.5
191 729 Anglo	150	+	7.5	184 140 Glynco	160	+	2.0	49 336 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	191 729 Anglo	150	+	7.5
192 730 Anglo	150	+	7.5	185 141 Glynco	160	+	2.0	50 337 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	192 730 Anglo	150	+	7.5
193 731 Anglo	150	+	7.5	186 142 Glynco	160	+	2.0	51 338 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	193 731 Anglo	150	+	7.5
194 732 Anglo	150	+	7.5	187 143 Glynco	160	+	2.0	52 339 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	194 732 Anglo	150	+	7.5
195 733 Anglo	150	+	7.5	188 144 Glynco	160	+	2.0	53 340 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	195 733 Anglo	150	+	7.5
196 734 Anglo	150	+	7.5	189 145 Glynco	160	+	2.0	54 341 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	196 734 Anglo	150	+	7.5
197 735 Anglo	150	+	7.5	190 146 Glynco	160	+	2.0	55 342 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	197 735 Anglo	150	+	7.5
198 736 Anglo	150	+	7.5	191 147 Glynco	160	+	2.0	56 343 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	198 736 Anglo	150	+	7.5
199 737 Anglo	150	+	7.5	192 148 Glynco	160	+	2.0	57 344 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	199 737 Anglo	150	+	7.5
200 738 Anglo	150	+	7.5	193 149 Glynco	160	+	2.0	58 345 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	200 738 Anglo	150	+	7.5

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984 High Low Stock	Price	Chg	%	1984 High Low Stock	Price	Chg	%	1984 High Low Stock	Price	Chg	%	1984 High Low Stock	Price	Chg	%
180 718 Aberdeen	150	+	7.5	173 129 Gibraltar	160	+	2.0	38 325 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	180 718 Aberdeen	150	+	7.5
181 719 Anglo	150	+	7.5	174 130 Glynco	160	+	2.0	39 326 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	181 719 Anglo	150	+	7.5
182 720 Anglo	150	+	7.5	175 131 Glynco	160	+	2.0	40 327 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	182 720 Anglo	150	+	7.5
183 721 Anglo	150	+	7.5	176 132 Glynco	160	+	2.0	41 328 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	183 721 Anglo	150	+	7.5
184 722 Anglo	150	+	7.5	177 133 Glynco	160	+	2.0	42 329 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	184 722 Anglo	150	+	7.5
185 723 Anglo	150	+	7.5	178 134 Glynco	160	+	2.0	43 330 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	185 723 Anglo	150	+	7.5
186 724 Anglo	150	+	7.5	179 135 Glynco	160	+	2.0	44 331 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	186 724 Anglo	150	+	7.5
187 725 Anglo	150	+	7.5	180 136 Glynco	160	+	2.0	45 332 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	187 725 Anglo	150	+	7.5
188 726 Anglo	150	+	7.5	181 137 Glynco	160	+	2.0	46 333 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	188 726 Anglo	150	+	7.5
189 727 Anglo	150	+	7.5	182 138 Glynco	160	+	2.0	47 334 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	189 727 Anglo	150	+	7.5
190 728 Anglo	150	+	7.5	183 139 Glynco	160	+	2.0	48 335 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	190 728 Anglo	150	+	7.5
191 729 Anglo	150	+	7.5	184 140 Glynco	160	+	2.0	49 336 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	191 729 Anglo	150	+	7.5
192 730 Anglo	150	+	7.5	185 141 Glynco	160	+	2.0	50 337 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	192 730 Anglo	150	+	7.5
193 731 Anglo	150	+	7.5	186 142 Glynco	160	+	2.0	51 338 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	193 731 Anglo	150	+	7.5
194 732 Anglo	150	+	7.5	187 143 Glynco	160	+	2.0	52 339 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	194 732 Anglo	150	+	7.5
195 733 Anglo	150	+	7.5	188 144 Glynco	160	+	2.0	53 340 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	195 733 Anglo	150	+	7.5
196 734 Anglo	150	+	7.5	189 145 Glynco	160	+	2.0	54 341 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	196 734 Anglo	150	+	7.5
197 735 Anglo	150	+	7.5	190 146 Glynco	160	+	2.0	55 342 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	197 735 Anglo	150	+	7.5
198 736 Anglo	150	+	7.5	191 147 Glynco	160	+	2.0	56 343 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	198 736 Anglo	150	+	7.5
199 737 Anglo	150	+	7.5	192 148 Glynco	160	+	2.0	57 344 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	199 737 Anglo	150	+	7.5
200 738 Anglo	150	+	7.5	193 149 Glynco	160	+	2.0	58 345 Standard Bank	35	+	0.4	200 738 Anglo	150	+	7.5

1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low 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Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low 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Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock				1984 High Low Stock							
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## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

**TIM CONGDON'S Economic Commentary**



THE TIMES  
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Chemicals	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Plastics	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Automotive	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Food	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Textiles	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Metals	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Engineering	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Services	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Finance	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Real Estate	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Telecom	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Media	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Energy	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Healthcare	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Consumer Goods	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Transport	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Utilities	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Government	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	International	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Other	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

## BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES  
Shares at new highACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 26. Dealings End, Dec 7. Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec 17.  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E	1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10

1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E	1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
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WALL STREET

Stock	Price	Change	Stock	Price	Change
IBM	158 1/4	+	Amgen	44 1/4	+
AT&T	101 1/4	+	Boeing	101 1/4	+
General Electric	44 1/4	+	Boeing	101 1/4	+
IBM	158 1/4	+	Boeing	101 1/4	+
AT&T	101 1/4	+	Boeing	101 1/4	+
General Electric	44 1/4	+	Boeing	101 1/4	+
IBM	158 1/4	+	Boeing	101 1/4	+
AT&T	101 1/4	+	Boeing	101 1/4	+
General Electric	44 1/4	+	Boeing	101 1/4	+

FOOTBALL: MANCHESTER UNITED STRUGGLE WITH INJURIES AND TOTTENHAM JUGGLE WITH PLAYERS

# Atkinson draws a dark veil over defensive problems

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The Uefa Cup meeting between Manchester United and Dundee United at Old Trafford might have been billed as part one of a new Anglo-Scottish war. But before the third round tie starts tonight, a crucial battle will already have ended in the wings of the main stage. England's representatives have been forced to fight for their fitness.

Ron Atkinson has lost half of his regular back four, Duxbury and Hogg, and may be without the other half as well. Manchester United's manager will be in the physio-therapist's room to see for himself how McGraw, the youngster he once forecast would become the best central defender in the country. Under normal circumstances, the recall of McGraw might have strengthened Manchester's ambition but he has a corallage removed during the summer and has since played only once, for the reserves last Saturday.

Atkinson, who has seen all five of his recognised centre halves suffer from injuries this season, revealed that McGraw would have been "my first choice from the start if he had been fit". But, even though his alternative is the inexperienced Garton, he may decide against risking him.

With their defence enveloped in such uncertainty, United's unbeaten home record, stretching back over 40 European ties, is under grave threat. It would have been in even greater danger if Dundee United's attack had been armed with Milne, their sharpest forward in Europe with 11 goals, but he has been ruled out as well.

The marksmen that Atkinson, Robson and Strachan all fear is Sturrock. Their opinion may be unanimous but recent European evidence would suggest otherwise. Sturrock failed to score in any of Dundee United's eight ties on their way to last season's European Cup semi-final, and has claimed only one in their four UEFA Cup matches so far. However, Sturrock did score five of his side's seven goals against Morton 11 days ago.

There can be no doubting



Uncertainty surrounds the fitness of McGraw (left) and the form of Sturrock (right)

Dundee United's firepower, particularly at their own Tannadice Park, but it is not confined to one or two individuals. Indeed, no fewer than eight have contributed to their victories over AIK Stockholm and Linz.

Jim McLean is tempted to forego the natural defensive instincts during the away leg but he, too, delayed announcing his side.

Yet Dundee United froze in the fiery heat of Rome's Olympic stadium last April and conceded a two-goal lead when they were within sight of the final. Tonight they will again step into an arena that will be filled with more than three times the usual crowd and, no doubt, more than three times the usual noise.

conceded a two-goal lead when they were within sight of the final. Tonight they will again step into an arena that will be filled with more than three times the usual crowd and, no doubt, more than three times the usual noise.

# Shreeves values his missing link

By Clive White

Peter Shreeves, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, regularly finds himself in the luxurious position of leaving famous names - including that of Hoddle - on the substitutes' bench and sometimes even in the stands, simply because there is no room for them on the field. But one man Shreeves would normally never leave out is perhaps the least celebrated name of all, Tony Galvin.

"He would always be in my 11, I always prefer to play with two wingers," Shreeves said yesterday. But tonight Tottenham will almost certainly be without the significant left-wing contribution of Galvin, as they defend the UEFA Cup in a third round, first leg tie with Bohemians, of Prague, at White Hart Lane.

The hamstring injury which has kept Galvin out of the last three games is likely to do so again. Without him, Tottenham have drawn the last two. They miss the width he brings and his raw, often unconsidered talent for thundering past the full back and crossing precisely from the most difficult angles out near the corner flag. It was his thrillingly-timed run and cross which put Tottenham ahead on aggregate in the previous tie with FC Bruges, which Tottenham won 4-2 on aggregate. He is a strange one, when given time and space he invariably makes a hash of it.

Without him, Shreeves has been tempted to play both Hazard and Hoddle, which can be rather too much of a good thing. Hazard's towering skill, anyway, usually shrinks to the height of a blade of grass whenever Hoddle is playing his trade. Here again injuries could resolve the problem, though Hoddle will probably be fit as well as Hazard, they all overcome their aches and pains in training.

Bohemians are rugged, regular combatants in Europe and are of an average age of 27 to 28. They reached the semi-final round of this competition last year, only to be beaten by Tottenham in last season's final on penalties, which was how Bohemians disposed of Ajax in the previous round this season.

Seven of the side represent the national team, and Slovic is a player who caught Shreeves's eye when he saw Bohemians twice recently. He is a skilful sort in his early thirties and dangerous at free-kicks just like his predecessor, Panenka, who did not go to Prague with too much to do," Shreeves said.

# Return of an idol with feet of gold

Hamburg (Reuters) - Karl-Heinz Runnenberg returns to West Germany for the first time since his transfer to Italy tonight for the UEFA Cup third round tie between Hamburg and Inter Milan.

All 6,000 tickets were sold out last week as fans clamoured for another glimpse of the celebrated West German, who cost Inter a European record fee of 11.4 million marks (around £3m) from Bayern Munich.

Inter's heavy summer spending - they also signed Liam Brady as their second foreign player - was aimed to secure a return to the successful days of the 1960s when they twice won the European Cup.

The Milan club drew 1-1 at Fiorentina on Sunday, but their league title challenge is waning and the UEFA Cup may be their best chance of success.

Brady missed the Fiorentina game through injury but should be fit to play, though Inter will be without their goalkeeper, Walter Zenga, who has a cartilage problem and will be replaced by Angelo Recchi.

Hamburg, lost 4-2 in Dusseldorf on Saturday, have slipped to fifth in the table and will also be concentrating on the UEFA Cup.

Their influential midfielder player, Felix Magath, scorer of the winning goal in the 1983 European Cup final against Juventus, is expected to play after missing the Dusseldorf game with a thigh injury.

His battle with Brady for midfield control could be the key to the tie. Magath needs to revitalize a Hamburg attack in which Mark McGhee is not scoring as freely as the club hoped when they signed him from Aberdeen last summer.

# Anderlecht aiming to lift Belgians' gloom

From Peter Bills, Brussels

A year of discontent at home and abroad cannot quickly enough end for Belgium football. The collective traumas of the Standard Liege bribes scandal and ignominious end to the European Championship campaign and Anderlecht's UEFA Cup final defeat by Tottenham last May combine to make 1984 a variation on the theme of Orwellian catastrophe.

But one of Belgian football's favourite sons, Paul van Himst has led the renaissance in some style. Tonight in their compact Parc Astrid stadium, Real Madrid, van Himst's Anderlecht should further redress the balance of misfortune for a Belgium football public which badly needs some winter cheer.

Anderlecht's excellence (they are clear leaders in the championship, ahead of Wargem and F.C. Bruges, and threaten to improve upon last season's runners up slot in the UEFA Cup) has been the most notable feature of the season so far in Belgium.

Yet van Himst, affable but astute, sees others as greater pretenders to Tottenham's UEFA Cup. "For me Inter Milan are a great danger and I expect them to beat Hamburg," he said.

Forest go with confidence into today's local derby with Chelmsford having in the last fortnight, narrowly lost to Luton, drawn with a strong Highgate and defeated St Edmunds, Canterbury, Wellingborough and Aldenham.

Shrewsbury hopes must also be high for their match with Queens Elizabeth GS, Blackburn. They had two good results this week, beating the former undefeated Macclesfield 3-2 and, on Saturday under wet, windy conditions, Shepherd, their captain, scored near the end to gain a 1-0 victory from an experienced Charterhouse side.

Lancing continued their run of success with a 5-1 victory against Dusseldorf.

Dusseldorf (Reuters) - Fortuna Dusseldorf yesterday put forward a plan for survival, including cuts in players' salaries.

Fortuna, West German Cup winners in 1979 and 1980 and second in the 1981-82 season, lost 1-0 to Eintracht Frankfurt in the first leg of their UEFA Cup tie. Fortuna's temporary manager,

# Rideout off the list at his own request

Paul Rideout, Aston Villa's England under-21 forward, has asked to come off the transfer list. Rideout, aged 20, was signed from Swindon Town for £250,000 before the start of last season, demanded a move after a row with manager Graham Turner three weeks ago.

Yesterday, Rideout, who has been left out since the disagreement, admitted he had been a "bit hasty". His decision was welcomed by Turner, who said: "He has a lot of potential and I never wanted him to leave."

Mark Hateley resumed training yesterday after knee surgery for an injury sustained while playing AC Milan against Torino on November 11. He says he wants to play in next Sunday's match against Verona, although he has not yet been given clearance to do so by doctors.

Alan Biley, Portsmouth's £120,000 signing from Everton, has asked for a transfer. Biley, 28, has been unable to command a regular place at Fratton Park for £250,000. He has scored 44 goals in 90 League appearances but has been restricted to substitute appearances for much of the last two months. Biley, who shared a 42 goal partnership with England forward Mark Hateley last season, was previously at Luton, Cambridge, Derby, Everton, and Stoke on loan.

Middlesbrough have made Stephen Bell available for transfer at his own request. But the manager, Willie Mather, will insist on a replacement before the 19-year-old winger is allowed to leave. Mather said: "We have a thin squad already without cutting it any further."

Leicester City have extended Peter Eastoe's loan from West Bromwich Albion for a second month. Eastoe came to Filbert Street last month for his second loan period with the club within 12 months, and has been a first-team regular throughout his stay.

Leicester's manager, Gordon Milne, confirmed yesterday that Albion had given Leicester permission to keep the former Swindon Town and Everton forward for another month.

Hull City made a £40,287 profit on the year ending July 31 - two and a half years after the official receiver was called in because of debts of £750,000.

Their chairman, Don Robinson, said: "It is our second successive profit and we are pulling the club round by running it in a business-like way."

Robinson revealed, however, that the profit was due to outside activities. There was a loss of £24,246 on the playing side, but it is now more likely than ever that Hull will go ahead with plans to turn Boothferry Park into football's first pop stadium. They have planning permission to build a covered stage, similar to the Hollywood Bowl, at the north end of the ground, and it is hoped to be in use by the summer of 1986.

Rideout: staying at Villa

Monday's results

FA Cup First round replay: Swindon 1, Oxford United 1 (penalty score after 90 min 1-1). Dagenham home to Peterborough. GOAL LEAGUE: Worcester 1, Kidderminster 2. ISTDHMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bognor Regis 1, Dunch Hermal 1. SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Division One: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. Division Two: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. Division Three: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. Division Four: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. Division Five: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. Division Six: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. Division Seven: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. Division Eight: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. Division Nine: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. Division Ten: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1.

Football Combination: Tottenham 0, Chelsea 3. QPR 0, Millwall 2. FA Trophy: Second qualifying round replay: Corby Town 0, Stafford Rangers 1. BARNET VS HODMANS LEAGUE: Wokingham 1, Orem 0. SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIGHT CUP: Second round: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. FA COUNTY YOUTH CUP: Second round: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. PREMIERSHIP: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. SOUTHERN NATIONS CUP: First qualifying round: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. 4-0 on aggregate: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. 2-0 on aggregate: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1. 3-0 on aggregate: Havant 1, Portsmouth 1.

Werner Fassbender, said he had received agreement from Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Monchengladbach to delay outstanding transfer payments on Fortuna's close-season signing Uwe Greiner and Jürgen Flier. The club would ask Dusseldorf city authorities to reduce stadium rental charges by eight per cent and would approach players about possible wage cuts.

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# Novice hits hole in one twice in same round

By Clive White

Dave Drew, a novice golfer, was not content with a hole-in-one on a Gloucester golf course, yesterday. He went on to hit another in the same round.

Drew, from Gloucester, was playing at his club in Painswick, near Stroud, when he hit his first hole-in-one with a 120-yard drive on the seventh hole. Then, at the tenth hole, he did the same from 150 yards.

OLYMPIC GAMES: Paul Zifren, chairman of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, said yesterday that only the committee's board of directors can decide whether to share the surplus from the 1984 Games with foreign teams. He also warned that "no-one has the right" to commit the Olympic money to others until the board acts.

In a statement responding to the former LAOOC president, Peter Ueberroth, who asked the committee to reimburse teams for their housing costs in Los Angeles, Zifren said that only the board can decide whether to share the committee surplus with the foreign teams.

Ueberroth has called last week for the committee to give about \$7m (£5.5m) of its estimated \$162m surplus to foreign teams that competed in the games, to show "that we're not greedy."

TABLE TENNIS: Graham Sandley, second to Desmond Douglas in the English final, yesterday received a £5,000 sponsorship boost. Sandley is being backed by JFA Computer Stationery, a New Malden printing firm, and bonuses

# Casuals are expelled from league

By Clive White

Corinthian-Casuals have been expelled from the Isthmian League, of which they were founding members in 1983 (see Newman writes). Casuals, who in August were granted a year's leave of absence from the league to give them time to bring their ground up to new standards, will return only if they can prove promotion from the London Spartan League, which they joined at the start of the season.

The Isthmian League have expelled Casuals because they had told the club they would be allowed to return next season only if they did not join another league in the meantime. Casuals had not officially resigned from the league.

ATHLETICS

Finns may ban dope case men

Helsinki (Reuters) - Officials involved in the Marti Vainio doping scandal should be banned from working with Finland's athletics, the National Olympic Committee said yesterday. Vainio, second in the Olympic 10,000 metres in Los Angeles, was stripped of his silver medal after a positive dope test.

Antti Lananen, the chief national coach, resigned on Friday after admitting responsibility for the cover-up of an earlier positive dope test by Vainio at the Rotterdam marathon in April. In both cases the Finnish runner was found to have used one of the banned anabolic steroid group of drugs.

# Tennis: Sweden no longer turns a blind eye to the draft dodgers

Stockholm (AP) - A Swedish member of parliament has asked the minister of defence if the government plans to tighten loopholes in the law in order to prevent Swedish tennis professionals from draft-dodging, it was reported here. "They should do their duty like all other Swedish men," Rune Angstrom, a liberal deputy, said.

None of the current generation of leading players, including Bjorn Borg and the four Swedes ranked in the world top ten, Wilander, Anders Jarryd, Henrik Sundstrom and Joakim Nyström, have served King and country. All of them decided early in their careers to move abroad because of the high taxes in Sweden and thus became ineligible for the draft. Wilander, who will lead the Swedes in the Davis Cup final against the United States in Gothenburg from December 16 to 18, moved to Monte Carlo two years ago.

Only citizens aged 17-23 residing in Sweden are eligible for the draft. Borg, the five-time Wimbledon winner, reported for the draft in the early 1970s but never did any military service after moving to the United States.

"It's no secret that we all try to get away from it," Magnus Tideman was quoted as saying in *Aftonbladet*, a Swedish newspaper. Tideman, ranked 130th on the Association of Tennis Professionals' computer, said: "You lose computer points and money and get out of shape by doing

nothing." "I don't know if the police ever caught a tennis player for draft-dodging. It's not our business."

Most tennis players have managed to beat the Swedish bureau-

cracy. A former winner of the United States Open junior title was even told by the military authorities to move abroad to escape national service, according to the Swedish military newspaper that broke the story. Other leading Swedish sportsmen, including 10 skiers, Ingemar Stenmark and Gunde Svahn, have served in the army. "It didn't hurt me at all," said Svahn, who won two gold medals, a silver and a bronze in cross-country skiing at the winter Olympics in Sarajevo this year.



Bjorn Borg: Out of the draft in Monte Carlo



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## Punch

## ART SECRETARY

Punch Magazine requires a young secretary to work in its lively art department with direct responsibility to the Art Director. An alert, meticulous mind is essential in the key job of processing cartoons for publication. Proficient typist with shorthand, at ease dealing with telephone enquiries and willing to work in a team. Suit 20-22 year old.

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We also require a secretary to work for various members of the Editorial staff, and to assist in the day-to-day running of the magazine.

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Please apply in writing, enclosing CV, to:

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### Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

TV-am

**6.25** **Good Morning Britain** presented by Amanda Langford and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.30 and 7.30; guest. Gordon Honeycombe at 6.45; exercise at 6.45; 7.25; the day's anniversaries at 8.51; Popeye cartoon at 7.22; Tina Turner pop video at 7.54; star moment at 8.16; Fred Truitt remembers at 8.45; Today. Llewellyn's gardening advice at 9.00.

**ITV LONDON**

**9.25** Thames news headlines. 9.30 **Football: Crail's design and technology**, 4.47 Energy sources and energy chains. 10.04 Magnetochimistry. 11.21 Television in Holland. 12.04 The contract for feeding in the Los Angeles area. 11.10 A baker at work. 11.22 A cartoon version of the Christmas story. 11.39 War is dead.

**12.00** Rod, Jane and Freddy with a musical story about Trixie Tommy. 12.10 Our Backyard. Peter is cheered up by a big show. 12.30 The Sullivan. Drama Serial story. The Australian family during the Second World War.

**1.00** News at One with Leonard Parkin. 1.20 Thames news from Robin Houston. 1.30 A Case Practice. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback. 2.30 Farmhouse Kitchen. Everyday Dinners prepared by Grace Mulligan and Angela Brown. 3.00 Take the High Road. 3.25 Cweli. Drama Serial story. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. Passion and high finance among the Hamilton and Palmer families.

**4.00** Rod, Jane and Freddy. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 Wil Cweli. Drama Serial story. A naughty duch. 4.20 Chish n' Pips. The story of two garden gnomes. 4.45 Murphy's Mob. Serial about a group of football-mad young boys. 5.15 Sons and Daughters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness.

**5.45** News. 6.00 Thames news with Andrew Gardner and Tina Jenkins.

**6.25** Help Viv Taylor Gee with news of Dial-a-Ride, a scheme to help the disabled get out their cars.

**6.35** **Crossroads.**

**7.00** **Time That Tunes.** Fast moving musical quiz presented by Lionel Blair.

**7.30** **Coronation Street.**

**8.00** This Is Your Life. Eamonn Andrews springs a surprise on another unsuspecting worthy.

**8.30** **Mike Yarwood in Persons.** Comedy from the talented impressionist.

**9.00** **Travelling Man.** Lomax, in his search for his son, crosses the path of the mysterious Thomas who is in reality an assassin on the trail of a defector who is spilling the beans in a 'safe house' (Orsica).

**10.00** **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.

**10.05** News followed by Thames news headlines.

**10.35** **Midweek Sport Special.** Highlights from one of tonight's third round, first leg, ties in the UEFA Cup. Involving a British Club; plus the final stages of the Tuborg British Fish Skating Championships.

**12.05** **World in Action: Apartheid's Back Yard.** A documentary about the conditions for the majority of black people in South Africa who have been dumped in the poverty stricken 'homelands'. Filmed unofficially and in secret by John Blake and John Smithson in the Ciskei which became 'independent' of South Africa three years ago.

**12.35** **Night Thoughts.**

## CHOICE

4, 10.05pm) confirms what we had long suspected: that, despite the much-vaunted breakthroughs by Dandridge and Belafonte, there is still an unignified rush by black movie actors to pick up the few crumbs that fall from the white man's table. While the racist of community relations gestures by the major studios such as training schemes for black performers if there is no work for them at the end of the film, it is a far cry from the suppressed anger, and it is a good job that most of the opinions we glean from black actors, producers and directors are more positive than the one delivered by the unidentified man who, branding Griffith's 1915 *Birth of a Nation*,

- London Liqueur Ensemble, also  
Stabat Mater (Westminster  
Cathedral Choir).
- 10.15 **Dellus** Concertos: RPO under  
Brampton play the *Brig Concerto*  
overture and *Autumn*; **Dellus**  
Piano Concerto (Moldenhaupt  
and Philharmonia Orchestra).
- 10.35 **Beethoven** Piano Concerto  
Sonata in E flat, K 481; and  
Barlow's *Theme and Variations*  
for Williams (Vivian and  
Hubert Dawkins (piano)).
- 11.00 **Philharmonia** Orchestra  
(under Doreen Chappell) play  
overture *Ruy Blas*; Beethoven's  
Symphony No. 3.
- 12.15 **Concert Hall**: Patricia Rozario  
(soprano) and Mark Troscian  
(piano); Schubert's *Ellen's Farewell*  
songs; Warburton's *Four* (Four  
soloists with harp); and  
1.00 **Grandes** (Amor y odio etc) etc  
by T. Navas.
- 1.05 **Bob Godman**: recordings in  
include Peggy Lee and Mel  
Powell, in mono.
- 1.30 **John Peel**: Records

## Radio 4 .

2.30 **Film Mile and Marlborough** (1935) starring Cicely Courtneidge as a woman who dresses up as a man in order to join the Duke of Marlborough's army at Flanders where her husband serving. Directed by Victor Saville.

4.00 **A Plus 4**, Marvin Chabon and Richard Linklater with a panel of unemployed people to discuss the events of the past month.

4.30 **Countdown**. John Walford, a airway passenger services duty controller challenges today's winners with the anagrams and mental arithmetic competition.

5.00 **Alice**, Mel, the diner owner, is depressed after meeting an old school chum who is happily married with a family.

5.30 **The Mary Tyler Moore Show**. Hal Baxter, the successful brother of Ted, arrives unexpectedly at the studio. Eagar to impress his brother, Ted introduces Mary as his girlfriend. A complicated series of one-shipments plays and with Mary and Rhoda making up a foursome with the two brothers.

6.00 **Silents Please**, Mack Sennett is the subject of this week's edition. His life and career is traced and among those who appeared with him on the screen and on a two-part mini-series are Charlie Chaplin, Ben Turpin, Carole Lombard and The Keystone Cops.

6.30 **The Living Body**. Part 11 of the 26-programme series on the inner workings of the body is the first of a two-part mini-series on an examination of the nervous system. Narrated by Derek Cooper and Mirlan Margolyes.

7.00 **Channel Four News with Perspectives** includes a report by Gavin Scott on the police 'Special Branch' - the subject of a Parliamentary select committee investigation.

7.50 **Comment**. The political slant this week is taken by Frank Dobson, the Labour MP for Hammersmith and St. Paul.

8.00 **Scotland's Story**. The penultimate part of the series on the history of Scotland and the Scots examines Scotland after 1945.

8.30 **Diverse Reports**. Britain's Coal Industry: Dead Within Years? Steve Hewlett and Barbara Evans analyse the impact of new computerised technology in the coal industry and come to the conclusion that the NUM is right in demanding that no pits should be closed.

9.00 **The People Show** is 'Starwashed'. Comedy with the People Show playing a keen but singularly unsuccessful troupe of vaudevillians touring the country's seaside clubs and bedroom theatres.

10.05 **Black Hollywood**. A documentary about black professional entertainers' battle to stamp out the negative image of blacks. (C. Choice).

11.30 **Closed Towns**.

unfair dealings and injustices. With Roger Cook.

7.45 The Fifth Lectures 1984, "Mind, Brain and Science", six times by Professor John Searle, Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley. (4) A walk to Patagonia.

8.15 In Bushness.  
Analysis: Michael Chernovsky's Michael Chayton chairs discussion.

8.30 A Talent to Amuse. The life and times of Noel Coward. 11: Noel As Others Sang Htm. With Sheridan Morley.

9.45 Kaddis. Includes comment on the art of the Architect exhibited at RIBA.

10.15 A Twelve. Mr. Fagot Romford's 'Hounds' by R. S. Surtess. S: Gone Away. Read by Brian Tynan-Rodriguez.

10.30 The World Tonight, Including 11.00 News Headlines.

11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

11.30 Today in Paperback.

12.00 News: Weather. 12.33 Shipping Forecast.

News (available in England and S. Wales only). 5.55-6.00am  
Weather. 12.30. 11.00-12.00for Schools. 11.00 Singing Together. (15) 11.20 Junior D. Drama Workshop. 11.40 Contact. 11.55 Songs from Something to Think About. (16) 1.55-2.00pm for Schools. 1.55 Listening Corner. 2.05 Something to Think About. (17) 2.20pm. 2.25-2.30pm for Schools. 2.30pm. 2.35-2.40pm for Schools. 2.40pm. 2.45-2.50pm for Schools. 2.50-3.00pm. 3.00-3.15pm. 3.15-3.30pm. 3.30-3.45pm. 3.45-4.00pm. 4.00-4.15pm. 4.15-4.30pm. 4.30-4.45pm. 4.45-5.00pm. 5.00-5.15pm. 5.15-5.30pm. 5.30-5.45pm. 5.45-6.00pm. 6.00-6.15pm. 6.15-6.30pm. 6.30-6.45pm. 6.45-7.00pm. 7.00-7.15pm. 7.15-7.30pm. 7.30-7.45pm. 7.45-8.00pm. 8.00-8.15pm. 8.15-8.30pm. 8.30-8.45pm. 8.45-9.00pm. 9.00-9.15pm. 9.15-9.30pm. 9.30-9.45pm. 9.45-10.00pm. 10.00-10.15pm. 10.15-10.30pm. 10.30-10.45pm. 10.45-11.00pm. 11.00-11.15pm. 11.15-11.30pm. 11.30-11.45pm. 11.45-12.00pm. 12.00-12.15pm. 12.15-12.30pm. 12.30-12.45pm. 12.45-1.00pm. 1.00-1.15pm. 1.15-1.30pm. 1.30-1.45pm. 1.45-2.00pm. 2.00-2.15pm. 2.15-2.30pm. 2.30-2.45pm. 2.45-2.60pm. 2.60-2.75pm. 2.75-2.90pm. 2.90-3.05pm. 3.05-3.20pm. 3.20-3.35pm. 3.35-3.50pm. 3.50-4.05pm. 4.05-4.20pm. 4.20-4.35pm. 4.35-4.50pm. 4.50-5.05pm. 5.05-5.20pm. 5.20-5.35pm. 5.35-5.50pm. 5.50-6.05pm. 6.05-6.20pm. 6.20-6.35pm. 6.35-6.50pm. 6.50-7.05pm. 7.05-7.20pm. 7.20-7.35pm. 7.35-7.50pm. 7.50-8.05pm. 8.05-8.20pm. 8.20-8.35pm. 8.35-8.50pm. 8.50-9.05pm. 9.05-9.20pm. 9.20-9.35pm. 9.35-9.50pm. 9.50-10.05pm. 10.05-10.20pm. 10.20-10.35pm. 10.35-10.50pm. 10.50-11.05pm. 11.05-11.20pm. 11.20-11.35pm. 11.35-11.50pm. 11.50-12.05pm. 12.05-12.20pm. 12.20-12.35pm. 12.35-12.50pm. 12.50-1.05pm. 1.05-1.20pm. 1.20-1.35pm. 1.35-1.50pm. 1.50-2.05pm. 2.05-2.20pm. 2.20-2.35pm. 2.35-2.50pm. 2.50-3.05pm. 3.05-3.20pm. 3.20-3.35pm. 3.35-3.50pm. 3.50-4.05pm. 4.05-4.20pm. 4.20-4.35pm. 4.35-4.50pm. 4.50-5.05pm. 5.05-5.20pm. 5.20-5.35pm. 5.35-5.50pm. 5.50-6.05pm. 6.05-6.20pm. 6.20-6.35pm. 6.35-6.50pm. 6.50-7.05pm. 7.05-7.20pm. 7.20-7.35pm. 7.35-7.50pm. 7.50-8.05pm. 8.05-8.20pm. 8.20-8.35pm. 8.35-8.50pm. 8.50-9.05pm. 9.05-9.20pm. 9.20-9.35pm. 9.35-9.50pm. 9.50-10.05pm. 10.05-10.20pm. 10.20-10.35pm. 10.35-10.50pm. 10.50-11.05pm. 11.05-11.20pm. 11.20-11.35pm. 11.35-11.50pm. 11.50-12.05pm. 12.05-12.20pm. 12.20-12.35pm. 12.35-12.50pm. 12.50-1.05pm. 1.05-1.20pm. 1.20-1.35pm. 1.35-1.50pm. 1.50-2.05pm. 2.05-2.20pm. 2.20-2.35pm. 2.35-2.50pm. 2.50-3.05pm. 3.05-3.20pm. 3.20-3.35pm. 3.35-3.50pm. 3.50-4.05pm. 4.05-4.20pm. 4.20-4.35pm. 4.35-4.50pm. 4.50-5.05pm. 5.05-5.20pm. 5.20-5.35pm. 5.35-5.50pm. 5.50-6.05pm. 6.05-6.20pm. 6.20-6.35pm. 6.35-6.50pm. 6.50-7.05pm. 7.05-7.20pm. 7.20-7.35pm. 7.35-7.50pm. 7.50-8.05pm. 8.05-8.20pm. 8.20-8.35pm. 8.35-8.50pm. 8.50-9.05pm. 9.05-9.20pm. 9.20-9.35pm. 9.35-9.50pm. 9.50-10.05pm. 10.05-10.20pm. 10.20-10.35pm. 10.35-10.50pm. 10.50-11.05pm. 11.05-11.20pm. 11.20-11.35pm. 11.35-11.50pm. 11.50-12.05pm. 12.05-12.20pm. 12.20-12.35pm. 12.35-12.50pm. 12.50-1.05pm. 1.05-1.20pm. 1.20-1.35pm. 1.35-1.50pm. 1.50-2.05pm. 2.05-2.20pm. 2.20-2.35pm. 2.35-2.50pm. 2.50-3.05pm. 3.05-3.20pm. 3.20-3.35pm. 3.35-3.50pm. 3.50-4.05pm. 4.05-4.20pm. 4.20-4.35pm. 4.35-4.50pm. 4.50-5.05pm. 5.05-5.20pm. 5.20-5.35pm. 5.35-5.50pm. 5.50-6.05pm. 6.05-6.20pm. 6.20-6.35pm. 6.35-6.50pm. 6.50-7.05pm. 7.05-7.20pm. 7.20-7.35pm. 7.35-7.50pm. 7.50-8.05pm. 8.05-8.20pm. 8.20-8.35pm. 8.35-8.50pm. 8.50-9.05pm. 9.05-9.20pm. 9.20-9.35pm. 9.35-9.50pm. 9.50-10.05pm. 10.05-10.20pm. 10.20-10.35pm. 10.35-10.50pm. 10.50-11.05pm. 11.05-11.20pm. 11.20-11.35pm. 11.35-11.50pm. 11.50-12.05pm. 12.05-12.20pm. 12.20-12.35pm. 12.35-12.50pm. 12.50-1.05pm. 1.05-1.20pm. 1.20-1.35pm. 1.35-1.50pm. 1.50-2.05pm. 2.05-2.20pm. 2.20-2.35pm. 2.35-2.50pm. 2.50-3.05pm. 3.05-3.20pm. 3.20-3.35pm. 3.35-3.50pm. 3.50-4.05pm. 4.05-4.20pm. 4.20-4.35pm. 4.35-4.50pm. 4.50-5.05pm. 5.05-5.20pm. 5.20-5.35pm. 5.35-5.50pm. 5.50-6.05pm. 6.05-6.20pm. 6.20-6.35pm. 6.35-6.50pm. 6.50-7.05pm. 7.05-7.20pm. 7.20-7.35pm. 7.35-7.50pm. 7.50-8.05pm. 8.05-8.20pm. 8.20-8.35pm. 8.35-8.50pm. 8.50-9.05pm. 9.05-9.20pm. 9.20-9.35pm. 9.35-9.50pm. 9.50-10.05pm. 10.05-10.20pm. 10.20-10.35pm. 10.35-10.50pm. 10.50-11.05pm. 11.05-11.20pm. 11.20-11.35pm. 11.35-11.50pm. 11.50-12.05pm. 12.05-12.20pm. 12.20-12.35pm. 12.35-12.50pm. 12.50-1.05pm. 1.05-1.20pm. 1.20-1.35pm. 1.35-1.50pm. 1.50-2.05pm. 2.05-2.20pm. 2

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